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NOTICE TO READERS: • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Balkan Foreign Ministers' Meeting Continues

Turkey's Alptemocin Reviews Meeting

TA2510164690 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1555 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana (ANATOLIA)—Foreign Minister Kurtcebe Alptemocin on Thursday met his Albanian counterpart Reiz Malile, his host at the Balkan foreign ministers meeting here.

He also met Yugoslavian Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar and Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase. Alptemocin told ANATOLIA afterwards that the meetings had been cordial and progressed cooperation, solidarity and confidence in almost every issue. [sentence as received] The two-day meeting of foreign ministers from Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania is only the second such gathering since World War II, and the first high-level international meeting in Tirana in decades.

The aim of the meeting is greater cooperation and solidarity between the Balkan countries.

Alptemocin told ANATOLIA before the meetings got underway that there were a number of subjects on which Balkan countries could cooperate without falling into dispute.

Greece's Samaras Meets Alptemocin

NC2510220390 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1930 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The two-day meeting of the six Balkans' foreign ministers ended in Tirana at noon today. Following lengthy discussions, the foreign ministers approved the text of a final communique which provides for the adoption of specific measures to expand inter-Balkan cooperation and stipulates that they should meet every year. The foreign ministers also agreed to discuss at the next meeting, which will be held in 1991 in Sofia, a proposal for a Balkan prime ministers' conference. They also approved a message to the CSCE which will be held in Paris 19-21 November.

Within the framework of the UN resolutions and the Helsinki Final Act, the six foreign ministers expressed the wish that people belonging to ethnic minorities have the right to express themselves freely and to develop political, ethnic, and religious action on an equal footing with other citizens.

Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras had a one-hour acquaintance meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Alptemocin in Tirana this afternoon. The two ministers described the meeting as very positive and added that they merely reviewed bilateral problems. They also agreed that the dialogue at ministerial level should continue at every international activity whenever possible, and added that there should be political will for the continuation of the Greek-Turkish dialogue.

Finally, Samaras pointed out to his Turkish counterpart that progress on the Cyprus issue constitutes an essential prerequisite for this dialogue.

Romania's Nastase, Alptemocin Confer

AU2510212990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1900 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/10/1990—Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Adrian Nastase met in Tirana on 24 October with Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin, minister of foreign affairs of Turkey, announces a communique of the press office of the Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry, informing him about the programme of economic reform read by Prime Minister Petre Roman to the Romanian Parliament.

The Turkish foreign minister underscored the readiness of his government to support the reforms in Romania and share Turkey's experience in stimulating economic growth.

Setting from the important potential of the two countries, the ministers discussed tangible projects applicable in the near future meant to ever more markedly increase trade and economic cooperation.

In connection with Balkan issues, the two ministers exchanged opinions on the conference under way in Tirana and on the Turkish project regarding the setting up of an association of cooperation among Black Sea littoral countries.

Albania's Carcani Receives Ministers

AU2610140890 Tirana ATA in English 0915 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 25 (ATA)—Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, received on October 25 afternoon at the seat of the prime minister's office, the ministers for foreign affairs of the Balkan states Lyuben Gotsev, Andonios Samaras, Adrian Nastase, Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin, and Budimir Loncar, leaders of the delegations of their countries at the meeting of the ministers for foreign affairs, that ended in Tirana on October 25.

Attending the reception were also Reis Malile, minister for foreign affairs; Niko Gjyzari, minister, secretary general of the Council of Ministers.

After voicing the satisfaction over his meeting with the foreign ministers of the Balkans, Comrade Adil Carcani congratulated them for the success they attained at their second meeting, which is a common contribution of the delegations and governments they represent. After pointing to the balance sheet of the positive results attained since the first Belgrade meeting, he underscored that through dialogue and bilateral and multilateral cooperation, characteristics of the present time, these

achievements may and should be further promoted contributing to the strengthening of the spirit of understanding, peace and security in the Balkans. This cooperation, said Comrade Adil Carcani, cannot be realized separated from the positive processes in Europe, on which you discussed at your meeting on October 24-25 and jumped at a common conclusion.

In the course of the conversation, the premier spoke also on the further democratization of the socio-economic life of the country, the implementation of the new economic mechanism. He dwelt particularly on the benefit of expanding the economic cooperation with the world particularly with the neighbouring countries.

He voiced the optimism that the decisions adopted by this important meeting will be successfully carried into life because in their foundations lie the common desire of the peoples of the Balkans to live in friendship and peace. On its part, the Albanian government, he underlined, will adopt all the measures to translate them into life. He asked the foreign ministers of the Balkans to convey to the heads of their governments the best greetings and wishes.

On behalf of the foreign ministers of the Balkan states, the federal secretary for foreign affairs of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar, after thanking for the reception and the considerations of the Albanian premier regarding the second Balkan meeting, said that this meeting confirmed the unity to develop and further promote the process of cooperation in the Balkans, coordinated the work with the CSCE process, creating a favourable climate to further develop the bilateral and multilateral relations.

Attending the reception, which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere, were also the heads of the diplomatic representations of the Balkan states accredited in Tirana.

Albania's Malile Talks With Ministers

AU2610140990 Tirana ATA in English 0935 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 25 (ATA)—During the proceedings of the foreign ministers' meeting of the Balkan states, the foreign minister of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, Reis Malile, held separate meetings with the minister for foreign affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin; the minister for foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Lyuben Gotsev; the federal secretary for foreign affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar; the minister for foreign affairs of Romania, Adrian Nastase; and the minister for foreign affairs of the Greek Republic, Andonios Samaras.

During the meetings, which were held in a friendly atmosphere, the Albanian foreign minister and the foreign ministers of the Balkan states talked on bilateral relations and on cooperation among the Balkan countries. They noted that these relations between Albania and their countries are developing positively and contribute to the strengthening and expansion of relations and multilateral cooperation, the improvement of the general political atmosphere in the region. In the spirit of the meeting of the foreign ministers in Tirana, they committed themselves to mark fresh developments in the bilateral relations, through concerted efforts, to the benefit of the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the Balkans. Likewise, opinions were exchanged on political questions and the situation in the region and Europe and on the contribution the process of Balkan cooperation and understanding should make as integral part of the European positive processes.

Attending these separate meetings were also the heads of the diplomatic representations of the Balkan states accredited in Tirana, as well as the ambassadors of the PSR of Albania in the capitals of the Balkan countries.

Alia Hosts Dinner 26 Oct

AU2610140790 Tirana ATA in English 1115 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 25 (ATA)—The chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia, gave a dinner at the Palace of Brigades on October 25, evening, in honour of the foreign ministers of the Balkan states, who participated in their meeting in Tirana, that ended its proceedings on October 25.

Attending were the minister for foreign affairs of the PR [People's Republic] of Bulgaria, Lyuben Gotsev; the minister for foreign affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Andonios Samaras; the minister for foreign affairs of Romania, Adrian Nastase; the minister for foreign affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin; the federal secretary for foreign affairs of the SFR of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar; as well as the members of the respective delegations.

Comrade Ramiz Alia met cordially with the foreign ministers of the Balkans, congratulating them on the success of the meeting of Tirana and talked separately with them.

Present at the dinner were also the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Adil Carcani; the vice-chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Rita Marko; the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly, Foto Cami; the minister of foreign affairs, Reis Malile; the minister of home affairs, Hekuran Isai; the minister of industry, mining and energy, Besnik Bekteshi; the minister of transports, Hajredin Celiku; minister, secretary general of the Council of Ministers, Niko Gjyzari; the minister of justice, Enver Halili; the minister of education, Skender Gjinushi; the minister of health, Ahmet Kamberi; the minister of home trade, Pajtim Ajazi; members of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, deputies and other guests.

Attending were also heads of diplomatic representations accredited in Tirana.

The dinner passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Alia Receives SFRY's Loncar

AU2610142390 Tirana ATA in English 1345 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 26 (ATA)—The chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia, received at the seat of the Presidium of the People's Assembly on October 26 before noon the federal secretary for foreign affairs of the SFR [Socialist Federal Republic] of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar.

In the talk with him, Comrade Ramiz Alia pointed out the success of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkans, attained through joint efforts of all the participating parties. Speaking of the great importance of the Balkan cooperation, he underlined the policy of good neighbourliness Albania pursues, and voiced the desire of the Albanian Government that the relations existing between Albania and Yugoslavia be carried further ahead, which is in the common interest for both countries.

Comrade Ramiz Alia dwelt also on the measures adopted and being applied in Albania to carry forward the process of democratization of the entire life of the country, which besides others, aim also at enhancing the role of Albania for the consolidation of the spirit of understanding and cooperation in the Balkans and its greater participation in the positive processes in Europe.

He pointed out also the correct and principled stand of Albania regarding the developments in Kosovo and underlined the need of equality the Albanians in Yugoslavia should enjoy, just like all the other peoples of that country. This is also in the interest of the consolidation of the relations of good neighbourliness.

On his part, Budimir Loncar, after informing of the situation in Yugoslavia, voiced the desire of the Yugoslav Government that the relations between the two countries go forward. He evaluated the results of the Tirana meeting, underlining the importance of strengthening the bilateral and multilateral relations so that to carry ahead the process of cooperation in the Balkans and to better integrate it in the CSCE process.

Besides, they exchanged opinions also on other problems of mutual interest.

Attending the reception was also the minister of foreign affairs, Reis Malile.

Present were also the ambassador of Albania in Belgrade, Kujtim Hysenaj, and the ambassador of Yugoslavia in Tirana, Novak Pribicevic.

Loncar, Alia Agree on Need for Ties

LD2610170990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1436 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, 26 Oct (TANJUG)—In the first high-level talks in the past 40 years, Yugoslavia and Albania today agreed that despite the differences which divide them, and in the spirit of the new era and processes in Europe, there exists a need and an opportunity for the further development of relations between the two neighboring countries.

This conclusion was reached following three hours of talks in Tirana between [Yugoslav] Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar and Albanian President Ramiz Alia. The meeting was held at the initiative of the Albanian head of state. The initiative was put forward yesterday by Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Reis Malile who also attended today's meeting. Also present were Yugoslav Ambassador to Albania Novak Pribicevic and Albanian Ambassador to Yugoslavia Kujtim Hysenaj. It has been learned, however, that the dialogue at the meeting was exclusively between Alia and Loncar.

Following the talks, journalists were informed that it had been an equal, open dialogue, with polemical overtones". [quotation marks as received]

Most attention was paid to Yugoslav-Albanian relations and, in this connection, of course, to the internal development of the two countries in the context of the latest trends in Europe and the world.

According to information from the Yugoslav delegation, the two interlocutors agreed that Yugoslav-Albanian relations are important for both countries. In the history of these relations, it was said, there were "bright moments", such as the period of resistance to the fascist occupation, but also serious stalemates, difficulties, and disagreements.

It was stated, however, that it was necessary, above all, to look to the present and the future. It was concluded that international trends, paricularly in Europe, favor relations between all countries—including our two neighboring countries—but also create the obligation to consolidate, through firm contributions, the confidence and stability of general democratic and reintegrational processes.

The Balkan meeting which ended yesterday in Tirana was mentioned in this context as an example of a meeting that, in its atmosphere and solid achievements, is creating conditions for the development of bilateral relations between the Balkan countries. At the same time, it is enforcing the commitment to make a contribution to overall relations in the Balkans through this bilateral cooperation together with noninterference in and respect for internal affairs.

In the context of examining Balkan and European trends and their influence on bilateral relations, Ramiz Alia agreed, it was learned, with the principle that there

should be respect for all countries, including neighboring ones. Budimir Loncar added that this means respect for the integrity of Yugoslavia and the integrity of Serbia.

Loncar replied to Ramiz Alia's familiar critical remarks on the position of the Albanian nationality in Yugoslavia with reference to the democratic processes in Yugoslavia, which are equally advantageous to all its citizens, nations, and nationalities, including Albanians, because the ultimate goal of this democratic process is the creation of a rule-of-law state with a central role for the citizen, equality of nations, and the protection of collective and individual rights of minorities. The federal secretary stressed in this context that the achievements gained by the Albanian nationality in Yugoslavia in the sphere of culture, education, and national affirmation through this democratic development can only be furthered.

In this connection, Budimir Loncar dwelt briefly on the election process in Yugoslavia, which, he said, under the conditions of a multiparty system makes room for the affirmation of the democratic position of citizens.

During the talks, Ramiz Alia stressed several times that he does not interfere in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia, or Kosovo, nor does he wish to, and that Kosovo is an internal matter for Yugoslavia. Loncar, it was learned, replied that as a principled approach this was logical, but that it contradicted what the Albanian president said about Yugoslavia recently from the platform of the United Nations.

During the talks Budimir Loncar raised the issue of the position of our minorities in Albania, stressing that the Yugoslav side was not thereby creating some kind of artificial counterweight, but was acting out of democratic intentions and expressing its own legitimate right.

Following the meeting, federal Secretary Budimir Loncar and his delegation left Tirana for Belgrade.

Nastase Speaks With Malile, Loncar

AU2610163090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1133 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest [place as received] ROMPRES, 26/10/1990—Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase had a working interview on October 25, in Tirana with Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile.

The two ministers expressed satisfaction at the positive unfolding of the conference in Tirana and pointed to the mutual wish to work for the consolidation of like evolutions as part and parcel of the CSCE process. They reviewed the possibilities and modalities to develop the relations between Romania and Albania, especially in economy, science, technology and culture.

It was agreed that the foreign ministries take action for the meeting the soonest of the Joint Commission on Economic, Industrial and Technological Cooperation, for contacts and exchanges of visits between cabinet members, parliamentarians and between the government and non-government bodies and institutions in the two countries.

Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase also had an interview during the Balkan ministerial conference with Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs of Yugoslavia.

The two ministers approached especially bilateral relations. It was agreed that the two foreign ministries give every assistance to the economic agents' initiative in view of actuating the economic cooperation and commercial exchanges, including through the conclusion of a long-term accord. They reiterated the mutual determination to work for increasing the cultural relations. Likewise, they agreed that frequent consultations be conducted between the two countries' foreign ministries on the course of the bilateral relations and on international problems of mutual interest.

Nastase Comments on Meeting

AU2610184790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1634 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest [place as received] ROMPRES, 26/10/1990—The highlight of the Tirana conference, Mr. Adrian Nastase, Romanian foreign minister, stated, was the consensus reached on the approach to cooperation in the Balkans under the present fundamental changes in the area. Such an approach has been altered due to facts which have been accumulating lately at the level of Balkan activities and, in general, to the changes occurred in Europe, Mr. Adrian Nastase mentioned in a statement to a ROMPRES editor in Tirana. A consensus was clearly attained regarding the wish to speed up the process of organization and institutionalization of Balkan activities. At the present stage we ought to discuss together about the future identity and structures of the Balkan area and to gather all such activities, projects and meetings under the general definition of "Balkan forum." Another reason for a consensus lies in the one hundred examined during the proceedings and which evince the wish of the Balkan states to use their inventivity and resources over a broader geographical area.

Answering a question about some divergent views expressed during the talks, the Romanian minister said in his opinion there was not one particularly disputed issue. Inside the Balkan multilateral relationship certain traditional bilateral difficulties are bound to arise. They have occurred now. Talks covered at length the problem of national minorities. But disagreements concerned the wording not the substance of the question so a positive solution has been found through a very good cooperation of the delegations, which shows that a multilateral meeting can help settle bilateral or other differences.

Nastase Talks to Samaras, Carcani

AU2610192390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1729 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana ROMPRES, 26/10/1990—On his participation in the conference of the Balkan countries' foreign affairs ministers in Tirana, Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase met with Andonios Samaras, Hellenic minister of foreign affairs.

The two ministers discussed aspects of the development of the Romanian-Hellenic relations, including the project of a summit meeting.

The Hellenic minister invited his counterpart to pay a visit to Greece.

On receiving the Balkan countries' foreign affairs ministers, Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, held talks with Mr. Adrian Nastase, too. The two governments' wish was reasserted to develop bilateral relations in the mutual interest, starting from the principles of observance of national independence and sovereignty, of non-interference in internal affairs.

At the reception party given by the president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the PSR of Albania, Ramiz Alia, in honour of the participants in the conference, the Romanian minister had a talk with the Albanian president. Conviction was expressed that propitious conditions were in place for the Romanian-Albanian traditional relations of friendship and collaboration to see an upward course in the mutual interest.

Samaras Visits Albanian Villages

NC2610230090 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 2200 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Today [Greek] Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras, who was in Albania for the six Balkan countries foreign ministers' conference, toured Gjirokaster Province, which is inhabited by thousands of Greek speakers. Samaras' principal stops during his tour were the villages of Dhervitseni and Gorati, where the Greek foreign minister was enthusiastically received.

According to an Athens news agency dispatch, Samaras interrupted the official program in Dhervitseni Village. Leaving the building where the official ceremony for his welcome had taken place, he walked across the entire village until he reached a churchyard that the authorities have converted into a warehouse. At this point, Albanian policemen hit with clubs some of the Greek-speaking inhabitants who had gathered and were holding lighted candles.

According to the Athens news agency, Albanian policemen always react violently when Greek journalists try to give Greek-speaking children commemorative items and books from Greece.

At noon, Samaras laid a wreath at the straits of Klisoura in memory of the thousands of Greek soldiers who died in one of the most bloody battles of the Albanian epic. The foreign minister returned late tonight to Ioannina. He will leave tomorrow morning [27 October] from there for Rome.

Samaras Interviewed on Greek Minority

AU2810152290 Tirana ATA in English 0959 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 28 (ATA)—The minister of foreign affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Andonios Samaras, granted the following interview to the Albanian Television prior to his departure:

"First of all I want to thank for all the way of the organisation of this meeting, which was extremely excellent. We were extended full facilities. The Balkan meeting went on very smoothly. I think that all of us can draw the conclusion that the results of the joint communique and the conclusions and decisions adopted are of a positive nature for all the Balkan countries. I hold that the most important conclusion of the meeting is the fact that we decided to further expand the relations among our six countries, both in the economic, trade fields and in the cultural, political and social ones, through exchanges, meetings, through the institutionalization of the Balkan conference. These were positive events and directions. So we must be very pleased with these results.

Regarding my visit to your country, I may say that I am extremely happy and moved as a Greek foreign minister, when seeing the villages of the Greek minority, with a younger generation, full of life, energy, when greeting with thousands of youths. This was an unique experience, which I will never forget throughout my life. I am especially happy of this friendship extended to me, and which I returned to all the inhabitants, all the people living in the Greek minority villages.

In this context, I am also glad that I visited the institute in Gjirokaster, an institute which encourages and expands the work for the training of the teachers, who can carry ahead the Greek language to the younger generation. I was likewise moved when seeing there young boys and girls receiving education in the Greek language and who will transmit this knowledge to the younger generations to come. Above all I would say that this was an excellent and moving experience at the same time for me."

Foreign Ministers Issue Joint Communique

AU2610140490 Tirana ATA in English 1000 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 25 (ATA)—The ministers for foreign affairs of the Balkan states met in Tirana, on October 24-25, 1990.

The chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia, addressed the meeting.

The meeting was attended by: the minister for foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Lyuben Gotsev; the minister for foreign affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Andonios Samaras; the minister for foreign affairs of Romania, Adrian Nastase; the minister for foreign affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin; the federal secretary for foreign affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar; and the minister for foreign affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Reis Malile, who was elected chairman of the meeting.

In a friendly and cooperative spirit, the ministers exchanged views and appraised the advancement of the process of Balkan cooperation to date, which was initiated with the first meeting of the ministers for foreign affairs in Belgrade in 1988, and defined the main lines and objectives of this process for the future.

They noted with satisfaction that all the Balkan peoples have hailed and the international public opinion has well received Balkan cooperation as a realistic course to the benefit of the national interests of participating countries, of peace and security in the region, which is in harmony with the positive developments that are currently taking place on the European scene.

The ministers pointed out the importance of Balkan activities successfully carried out so far in various fields of common interest and agreed that the cooperation in the fields already specified, or to be further intensified, be materialized in concrete terms, including signing of relevant agreements.

The ministers underlined that the multilateral cooperation, as a positive political element in the Balkans, does also provide favourable conditions for the strengthening of bilateral relations, which remain an important factor for the improvement of the overall atmosphere and development of substantial cooperation.

The ministers reiterated the strict adherence of their countries to the principles of respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, equal rights and noninterference in internal affairs. They underlined that the situation in Europe and in the world has significantly changed since the Belgrade meeting and that recent developments in Europe are in line with the CSCE process, which is actually moving towards its institutionalization. The ministers observed that a new concept of European security, away from the spirit of divisions and confrontations, based on understanding, mutual confidence and cooperation, is taking shape. They expressed the view that political stability is closely linked with economic development and cooperation.

Consistent with these realities, the ministers reaffirmed the commitment of their countries to consolidate and further promote Balkan cooperation on the political, economic, cultural and humanitarian plane, and raise it to a new qualitative stage.

The ministers stressed that the Balkan cooperation is an integral part of positive European processes. A stable Balkans, which is advancing on the course of current developments, is a factor of peace and security for the entire Mediterranean region and Europe.

The meeting hails the Paris CSCE summit and decided to forward a message to it.

The ministers emphasized their countries' commitment to democracy and common European values, in compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents, thus making their contribution with a sense of responsibility to a better future in Europe.

The ministers underlined, alongside with the strengthening of regional groupings and cooperation, the enhanced role of the United Nations Organization, which remains an important instrument for the preservation of peace and security, as well as for the democratization of international relations.

Having in mind a common commitment of the Balkan countries that would satisfy the aspirations of their own people for peace and good-neighbourliness, and willing to contribute to the deepening of the processes that have already occurred in the continent, the ministers agreed that a working group should be set up to elaborate a document of principles of good neighbourliness in the Balkans based on the UN Charter, the CSCE documents and international precedents.

Recognizing that the positive attitude towards national minorities, as referred to in the Helsinki Final Act and the corresponding CSCE documents and in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, is one of the basic factors of good neighbourliness, mutual confidence, stability, cohesion and democracy in the Balkans, the ministers agreed that persons belonging to the national minorities have the right, within the existing constitutional order of their country, which guarantees equal rights and status for all, to freely express, preserve and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, and to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms in full equality with other citizens.

The ministers reaffirmed the determination of the Balkan countries to consolidate the progress achieved in various fields of inter-Balkan cooperation and to extend their multilateral political dialogue.

The ministers reiterated the wish for the materialization of contacts among respective parliaments by creating parliamentary groups of Balkan multilateral cooperation.

The proposal to hold a meeting of heads of state or government of the Balkan countries was discussed, and the importance of creating the conditions for convening

it in a near future was underlined. The ministers agreed to revert to the subject at their next meeting.

The ministers agreed that the meetings of ministers of foreign affairs of Balkan countries will be held annually. The next meeting will be convened in Sofia in the fall of 1991.

The ministers decided that in view of the increased activities of Balkan cooperation, the country which hosts the foreign ministers' meeting play the role of coordinator until the next ministerial meeting. The ministers devoted particular attention to the economic cooperation among the Balkan countries, considering it to be very important for the promotion of overall relations in the region. Having it in mind and in order to provide guidance for the objectives, scope and organizational framework and economic dimension of the Balkan cooperation, they recommended that economy or foreign trade ministers of the Balkan countries should meet on a yearly basis.

They also stressed that the preparations for the establishment in Athens of the research institute for Balkan economic cooperation should be intensified.

The ministers recommended that the next meeting of the ministers of transport be convened in Tirana in 1991.

The ministers recommended also that a meeting of the ministers of health be convened in Turkey in 1991.

The ministers underlined the need to embark upon new and concrete activities to ensure a more extensive utilization of opportunities for expanding cooperation in the field of trade, including the exchange of commodities and services and border trade, transport, industry, tourism, energy, agriculture and water management, veterinary medicine and protection of plants and forests, environment and health protection.

The ministers emphasised the importance of the exchange of views on cooperation in the field of telecommunications, banking, science and technology, culture, sports, information and informatics.

The ministers pointed out the role of cultural relations as an avenue to promote better understanding and friendship among the Balkan countries. They agreed that the first Balkan arts festival be held in Turkey in 1991.

They agreed to establish a working group to examine the feasibility of founding a Balkan development bank, with the intention of allocating additional financial resources to facilitate implementation of projects of common interests.

They stressed that the preparations for signing a regional convention on environmental protection in the Balkan peninsula should be intensified.

They underlined the need to implement the understanding reached in connection with cooperation in combating terrorism and illicit arms and drugs trafficking and recommended that a meeting of the Balkan countries experts on international terrorism and illicit arms trafficking be convened in Yugoslavia in 1991.

They expressed their readiness to continue to consider confidence-and-security building measures among the Balkan countries.

The ministers stressed the importance of and expressed their full support for the cooperation at the nongovernmental level.

It was agreed to continue holding twice a year the meetings of the high officials of the ministries of foreign affairs with the task of studying all the proposals and coordinating further activities in all fields of multilateral cooperation. The next meeting of high officials will be held in Turkey in April 1991.

The ministers delegated the high officials to study all aspects of forming the Balkan forum which would comprise periodical meetings taking place in the framework of Balkan cooperation, as well as Balkan institutions of multilateral cooperation in various fields and to submit their report to the next meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan states.

During the meeting a great number of other proposals were made. The ministers agreed that the high officials would consider them at their meetings with the view to working out the appropriate recommendations.

The ministers reiterated their determination to ensure full and effective implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions to secure the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

They have stressed the importance they attach to an early peaceful solution of the problem and to the full restoration of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state of Kuwait.

They observed that achieving this objective would also benefit the Balkan countries by limiting the heavy economic losses they suffered as a result of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The meeting entrusts Albania to inform and send its documents to the secretary general of the United Nations Organization.

The participants expressed their commendation for the way in which the meeting was conducted and conveyed their gratitude to the government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania for the warm hospitality extended to the participating delegations.

Kadare's Defection Incites Reactions

Termed 'Grave Offense'

AU2610140390 Tirana ATA in English 1340 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 26 (ATA)—The foreign press reports say that the writer Ismail Kadare, who was for nearly one month in France on business, requested political refuge there on October 25.

Through this ugly act, that is a grave offence for the patriotic and civic conscience of our people, he abandoned the people and homeland and placed himself in service of the enemies of Albania and the Albanian people.

Condemned by Writers' League

AU2810151590 Tirana ATA in English 0957 GMT 28 Oct 90

["Shameful Act of the Writer Ismail Kadare"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, October 28 (ATA)—Under the above title the newspaper "DRITA" carries today an announcement of the Presidency of the Writers' and Artists' League of Albania, which says:

As reported by the foreign press, Ismail Kadare, being on duty in Paris since a month ago, asked for political asylum in France the day while the conference of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries was winding up its proceedings in Tirana. Through this shameful act he has offended especially the Albanian intelligentsia, the creators and the national consciousness of the people, putting himself on the same line with those who do not love Albania and its progress. His fleeing the country is not justified either from the social positions or from the literary ones. Through his creativeness he enjoyed authority among the people, was a member of the Academy of Sciences, member of the Presidency of the Writers' and Artists' League of Albania, vice-chairman of the Presidency of the Democratic Front, etc. His books were published without exception and his own say in the public and press was completely free.

Through this act, which does not honour any one who commits it, Ismail Kadare separated himself from the writers and artists at a time when profound processes for the democratization of the Albanian society are carried out and when the homeland needs the word and deed of the honest creators.

Called 'Tip of the Iceberg'

AU2910103890 Paris AFP in English 0751 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Nicolas Miletitch article: "Despairing of Change at Home, Albanians Continue Fleeing Abroad"]

[Text] Tirana, Oct 29 (AFP)—The much-publicized recent defection to France of Albania's most prominent writer, Ismail Kadare, was the tip of the iceberg: More and more Albanians are giving up hope of change at home and fleeing across the country's borders, observers say here.

At least 600 Albanians, most of them from rural areas where legally acquired passports are impossible or near-impossible to obtain, have fled this small country in the past six months, according to diplomats. Some of them, like four-year-old Anisa Gruda, shot dead on the Yugoslav border in September, are paying with their lives, as trigger-happy frontier guards open up on them. In other cases, it is the guards themselves who vanish across the border, usually taking their weapons and their uniforms with them.

A turning point occurred last July, when some 5,000 Albanians seeking to emigrate took refuge in diplomatic missions here in Tirana. The government, which in May had announced that all Albanians could apply for a passport, eventually agreed to let them go, opening one of the first major breaches in the facade of this long-isolated communist state. However, for many people in rural areas, the risks of rapid flight seem more attractive than the prospect of waiting, perhaps indefinitely, for a passport

Although officials say that some 12,000 passports have been delivered to residents of Tirana—population 300,000—in the past four months, the new policy has hardly filtered down to officials in the countryside, observers say.

On a typical day last week, six men and two women stole a boat at Durres on the Adriatic coast and took it to Italy, while four young soldiers made it across the border into Greece. In another case last week, two Albanians paddled for three days along the coast on a raft made of car tyres to get into Yugoslavia, while in August a man swam for 16 hours across Lake Ohrid to reach the Yugoslav shore. But most of the fugitives cross by night, in sparsely populated mountain regions.

Although the authorities here deny that guards have orders to fire on fugitives, reliable sources say that at least 10 people have been killed this year while trying to cross Albania's borders.

The government says it is eager to comply with requests for passports, in particular because it hopes to become a full member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Isolated from the outside world for four decades by its hard-line communist regime, which was at odds with its Soviet-aligned eastern European neighbours just as much as with western European governments, Albania is the only European state not to be a member of the CSCE. A key human rights condition attached to membership in the group is the free movement of persons, which the Soviet Union and other former east European communist states are now adopting.

Role, Function, Duties of Social Courts Described

AU2810160390 Tirana BASHKIMI in Albanian 19 Oct 90 p 1

[Thimio Kondi article: "The Social Courts"]

[Text] **The Law "On Social Courts" comes into effect on 1 November this year. To gain a clearer view of the role, function, and duties of these organizations, we turned to the lawyer Thimio Kondi, director of the Study Directorate at the Ministry of Justice, who gave the following explanation:**

Village, town, and precinct courts, conceived and created in duplicate, have been the lowest level of our court system. These social organizations have long played an important role in dispensing justice, preventing signs of criminality and other breaches of the law, and raising the legal awareness of the urban and rural masses.

In these duties, their right to hand down the sanctions of the state has been limited, confined merely to issuing fines or social reproofs, or determining the compensation required for damage.

At our society's present stage of development, when the ideological and cultural level and legal awareness of the masses has risen, and with the continual deepening of the process of the further democratization of the country's life, the application of state sanctions is not always necessary and inevitable, especially in cases of minor infractions of the law. These sanctions are being replaced, and can be more widely replaced, by other measures of social influence. As a result, there are much greater opportunities than before for social organizations to settle differences through understanding and reconciliation, without recourse to the courts.

Bearing in mind these conditions and opportunities, the ninth party Central Committee plenum instructed, among other things, that village and precinct courts should be replaced by social courts. This instruction became a reality when the People's Assembly approved at its most recent session the law "On Social Courts," which abolishes village, town, and precinct courts. According to this law, the new social courts which will work within the ambit of the people's councils of villages, precincts, and towns without precincts will consider the settlement of charges brought at the request of the injured party such as assault, defamation, slander, etc., civil actions where the damage is less than 1,500 leks, marital issues, failures to provide nourishment, offenses against property, etc. The main task of these organizations will therefore be to prevent the aforementioned cases from proceeding to the district courts, to reconcile estranged persons through persuasion and clarification, and to ensure the voluntary fulfillment of legal obligations through goodwill. For this purpose, it is necessary to make better use of our people's ancient traditions and the rich experience gained during the years of the power of the people.

As 1 November approaches, the date on which this law comes into effect, we should hasten our work, accelerating the election of these courts at meetings of the people organized for this purpose, and taking every other organizational measure which will guarantee their smooth functioning. Working people in the justice organs, alongside the people's councils and the social organizations, can and must render great assistance in this direction.

Air Traffic Control Service Inaugurated

AU2710155790 Tirana BASHKIMI in Albanian 20 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] The new civilian air traffic control service was inaugurated at Rinas Airport yesterday.

This air traffic control service makes it possible to cross our country by air, thus facilitating the movement of civilian aircrafts. The routes passing through our air space have been approved by national and international authorities. The procedures to be followed have been agreed upon by air traffic control centers in Italy, Yugoslavia, and Greece.

This activity will be further expanded, and will ensure foreign currency earnings.

Ferdinand Tako, general secretary of the Ministry of Transportation, officials of the relevant ministries, and representatives of Eurocontrol (The European Air Traffic Control Organization) and the air authorities of Italy, which will help to bring the service into regular operation, attended the inauguration.

Trade Agreement Signed With CSFR

AU2810151790 Tirana ATA in English 0952 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 28 (ATA)—The trade agreement on the goods' exchange and payments for 1991-1993 between the Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic was signed in Prague on October 26. For the Albanian side the agreement was signed by the minister of foreign trade, Shane Korbeci, and for the Czechoslovakian side by Jiri Brabec, charged with the function of the minister of foreign trade. Attending the signing ceremony was also the charge d'affaires a.i. [ad interim] of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania in Prague, Idriz Dhrami.

During his stay in Prague, the minister of foreign trade, Shane Korbeci, was received also by the first Czechoslovakian vice-premier, Vaclav Vales. During the meeting they exchanged views on the further development of trade exchanges and cooperation between the two countries and the desire of both governments was expressed that these relations develop further in all fields.

Alia Sends Message to Havel on National Day

AU2810152090 Tirana ATA in English 0906 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 28 (ATA)—The chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia, sent the following message of greetings to the president of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Vaclav Havel:

"On occasion of the anniversary of the national day of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, on behalf of the Albanian people, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and in my own name, I send to you sincere greetings and to the Czecho-Slovakian people the best wishes for happiness and posperity."

Alia Sends Message to Ozal on National Day

AU2810193190 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Comrade Ramiz Alia, president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, has sent the following greetings telegram to Turgut Ozal, president of the Republic of Turkey:

I have special pleasure, on the celebration of your national day, in sending to your excellency and to the friendly Turkish people, in the name of the Albanian people, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, and on my own behalf, best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of your country.

I express the wish that the friendly relations and close cooperation between Albania and Turkey will further develop and grow to the benefit of both our peoples and of peace and cooperation in the Balkans and Europe.

Technical Cooperation Agreement Signed With SRV

AU2410181290 Tirana ATA in English 1052 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Tirana, October 24 (ATA)—The protocol of the 9th session on technical-scientific cooperation between the government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] for 1991-1992 was signed in Hanoi on October 22. The protocol was signed for the Albanian side by Ajet Ylli, chairman of the Committee of Science and Technique, and for the Vietnamese side by Dang Huu, Chairman of the State Committee of Science and Technology. The protocol envisages exchanges in the field of agriculture, light, foodstuff one, etc. The signing ceremony was also attended by Gezim Dhrima, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania in the SR of Vietnam.

Assembly To Send Decontamination Unit to Gulf

AU2610135690 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (AFP)—The Bulgarian parliament on Friday [26 October] decided to send a volunteer military unit to the Gulf to join the forces of several nations ranged in the desert as part of United Nations pressure against Iraq. The volunteers will form a chemical-warfare de-contamination unit, and will include doctors, parliament decided behind closed doors.

The decision was taken the day after a Bulgarian delegation led by Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev returned from Baghdad having obtained the approval of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for the return to Sofia of 430 of 690 Bulgarian nationals in Iraq. The decision to allow the Bulgarians to return has yet to be approved by the Iraqi parliament.

Bulgaria has made a commitment to leave in Iraq workers whose contracts have not expired so that they can complete construction work by Bulgarian companies on civilian sites.

A proposal to send Bulgarian forces, by President Zhelyu Zhelev during a recent visit to the United States, provoked contradictory reactions among the population.

Willing To Train Gulf Volunteers

AU2610143490 Sofia BTA in English 1418 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—Parliament resolved today that the competent state bodies under the leadership of the president start training volunteers for deployment in the Persian Gulf: a unit of medics with a chemical protection subdivision. The resolution envisages the necessary diplomatic and other actions related to the logistical support of the volunteers' possible deployment.

The resolution was voted at a closed-doors sitting of parliament after Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev reported on his visit to Belgrade. [as received]

In keeping with UN Security Council Resolution 665, Bulgaria expresses its readiness to provide assistance, on the basis of bilateral understanding with the parties concerned, if the assistance request comes from the Government of Saudi Arabia or from the government of a state which has naval forces in the Persian Gulf, the resolution says.

Bulgaria will keep supporting any trade and economic means of pressure on Iraq imposed in compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Parliament obliged the government and the managements of the economic organizations which sent Bulgarians on work to Iraq to spare no efforts for guaranteeing their safety and the safety of their families and for alleviating their conditions and their earlier repatriation.

The government must persevere in its representations to the UN Committee on Sanctions, to other international organizations and on a bilateral basis so that Bulgaria could be recognized a status of a country affected by the UN sanctions against Iraq, the parliament's decision reads further on.

The Bulgarian Grand National Assembly hopes that the Iraqi Government will display realism, common sense and respect for the will of the world public and will comply with the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Assembly Resolution on Gulf Conflict

AU2610195090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Grand National Assembly resolution on statement by President Zhelyu Zhelev in connection with his visit to the United States, United Nations, and France, adopted at the 26 October session of the Seventh Grand National Assembly in Sofia—live or recorded]

The Grand National Assembly

Categorically viewing the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait as a crude violation of the international order and a provocation against the international public and the people's peace and security;

Noting that the Iraqi aggression contradicts the new positive processes in international relations, which Bulgaria supports and tries to stimulate in accordance with its ability and possibilities;

Expressing solidarity with the sanctions, imposed by the UN Security Council and aimed at eliminating the Iraqi aggression and restoring Kuwait's independence and sovereignty, as well as peace and security in the Persian Gulf region;

Approving and supporting the measures adopted by many UN member states and aimed at preventing a further expansion of the Iraqi aggression and defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other UN member states in the Persian Gulf region;

Hoping that the Arab and other interested states, as well as the United Nations will succeed in finding a realistic and appropriate solution through peaceful means to the sharp political and military crisis produced by the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait;

Expressing disapproval of the Iraqi authorities' actions against the thousands of foreign citizens, held on Iraq's territory and treated as hostages;

Condemning the especially dangerous Iraqi threats related to its readiness to use weapons of mass destruction, resolves:

Bulgaria will continue to support all means of influence against Iraq, which have a trade-economic character,

and have been imposed on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 660, 661, 662, 664, 665, 666, and 670.

The Grand National Assembly expresses Bulgaria's readiness in accordance with paragraph three of UN Security Council Resolution No. 665, of 25 August 1990, to render assistance on the basis of bilateral agreements with the interested countries, if such an assistance is requested by the Government of Saudi Arabia or the government of any other states that has naval forces in the Persian Gulf region, and which on the basis of paragraph one of the aforementioned resolution protects the implementation of Resolution No. 661 related to maritime transportation of cargoes.

Under the leadership of the chairman of the Republic the competent state organs have been instructed to adopt the necessary measures for training a military medical unit with a subunit on antichemical defense, composed of volunteers, with a view to sending the unit to the Persian Gulf region.

Simultaneously, the necessary diplomatic and other steps related to the material support and financing of the eventual sending of the aforementioned unit must be effected.

The government and the leaderships of the economic organizations, which have sent Bulgarian citizens to Iraq, must make all efforts to guarantee their security and the security of their families, alleviating their situation, and their faster return to the motherland.

The government must continue its efforts at the UN Commission on Sanctions and other international organs, as well as its efforts of a bilateral character, aimed at recognizing Bulgaria's status as a country that has been affected by the UN sanctions against Iraq.

The Grand National Assembly hopes that the Government of Iraq will demonstrate realism, common sense, and respect for the will of the world public, and will implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

'War of Words' Reported

AU2610173390 Sofia BTA in English 1609 GMT 26 Oct 90

["War of Words in Parliament"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 24 Oct (BTA)—A u-turn to a market economy cannot be taken without a political reform, Mr. Aleksandur Yordanov MP reiterated today in parliament the highlight of yesterday's declaration of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS).

He did so in reply to the declaration answer of the Bulgarian Socialist (formerly Communist) Party which repeated this afternoon the morning statement of Mr. Aleksandur Lilov.

In their declaration the Socialists claim that they have assumed political responsibility for the past. They believe that yesterday's SDS statement repeats errors of the past and refer to the time when the Communists eliminated the opposition 45 years ago. The BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] urges the settlement of the problems to be left to court.

The BSP says it favors declaring all incomes and property acquired under totalitarianism and to date, something which the opposition wants it to do. The Socialists declared themselves against civil servants and economic executives taking advantage of their official status to privatize state property. "However, we would not tolerate this matter being ascribed to our party and to the government," the declaration reads.

Although it was on the agenda, the debate on the government program did not take place today.

At a closed-door sitting, parliament decided to give the go-ahead for the preparation of the dispatch of volunteers to the Persian Gulf. Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev reported on the visit of the Bulgarian delegation to Iraq.

The war of words between the Socialists and the opposition broke out after Mr. Lilov's statement in which he reiterated that the pages of the past must be closed, that no one should be upset that the government program borrows many of the opposition's ideas.

The president of the Supreme Council owns a company, four former and incumbent ministers and one deputy minister are on the parliamentary commission of inquiry into the guilt for the crisis, Mr. Lukanov's current adviser was also adviser to the former prime minister Mr. Georgi Atanasov, Mr. Petur Kornazhev MP of the SDS said.

Mr. Stefan Savov MP of the SDS-affiliated Democratic Party recalled the Bulgarian reality of a year and a half ago: many Bulgarians were discriminated against for party rather than for racial reasons.

When Mr. Petko Simeonov MP of the SDS said that the guilt of an opposition MP who used to lecture in the University was not the same as the guilt of Mr. Andrey Lukanov, the Socialists were as displeased as when he said that, in his capacity as a former Communist, he assumed part of the guilt of the BSP.

Mr. Dimitur Yonchev MP of the BSP did not refute the facts which the opposition produced in parliament today: that two weeks ago, at a closed-door party meeting Mr. Yonchev said that while the BSP is in power it will keep its archives. The party archives were to be handed over to the state archives. "We have companies of our own," Mr. Yonchev allegedly said.

The prime minister also spoke about the companies today. The matter has been discussed at the Council of Ministers. The still effective decree on economic activity will be amended to ban economic executives to set up companies with a similar line of business as the state-owned enterprise they run.

The emotional debate in parliament today upset the agenda. None of the items was discussed. The president's motion to set up a foreign aid agency has yet to be voted, too.

Semerdzhiev Holds News Conference on Iraq Visit

AU2610205090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Report on news conference by Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev in Sofia; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The impression that the Iraqi authorities are treating the Bulgarian citizens as hostages is not correct. Our citizens can freely travel in Iraq, however, they cannot obtain an Iraqi exit visa. This was stated today by Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev, at his news conference at the Presidency of the Republic.

During his visit in Iraq he met the collectives of Transcomplex, where certain tension and alarm have been evident, and Agrocomplex, where the employees work in a calmer atmosphere.

According to the vice president the greater danger for them is not related to the eruption of a military conflict in the region, but to the disorder in their everyday life.

Atanas Semerdzhiev pointed out that the fact that a part of the Bulgarian citizens remain in Iraq and continue their work does not mean that Bulgaria violates the international boycott. Bulgaria is not the only state which implements and will continue to implement its obligations to Iraq on the basis of valid contracts, he said. This applies to two projects which will be commissioned very soon. According to Atanas Semerdzhiev, there will be enough workers who will prefer to remain until the projects are completed. In addition, the companies involved also are ready to provide manpower.

Asked whether a contradiction exists between the decision to send a military contingent to the region and the fact that Bulgarian citizens remain in the area, the vice president answered that during the official talks our delegation did not conceal the fact that it intends to send a military unit and a subunit on antichemical defense to the region. This was accepted without any comment by the Iraqi leaders.

We support reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis and oppose military violence, he said, and stressed that Bulgaria would rejoice with the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait, and would accept such a step not as a defeat and retreat, but as political courage and prudence.

Romanian Foreign Minister Nastase Arrives 28 Oct

AU2810192490 Sofia BTA in English 1833 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 28 Oct (BTA)—Mr. Adrian Nastase, Romania's minister of foreign affairs, arrived here today on an official visit at the invitation of his Bulgarian counterpart Mr. Lyuben Gotsev.

In the course of 12 years Bulgaria and Romania have not held formal meetings at the foreign minister level. The contacts at this level have been maintained within the framework of government visits and at international forums.

When the two countries' presidents conferred in New York during the UN session, they agreed that Bulgaria's and Romania's foreign ministers would meet to make an overall review of bilateral relations.

Upon his arrival, Mr. Adrian Nastase pointed out that his already established personal contacts with Mr. Lyuben Gotsev guarantee a successful solution of some difficulties in bilateral contacts. He is convinced that the two are on their way to solve some more serious problems and specifically those related to the condition of the environment along the common border. He sees opportunities for the integration of the two countries' interests in a broader spectrum: in Balkan cooperation and cooperation in Europe.

Initial Talks Held With Gotsev

AU2910124590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1129 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, ROMPRES 29/10/1990—"I hope this visit to be constructive and positive. I have met several times with the Bulgarian foreign minister and I hope personal relations facilitate finding solutions to certain problems concerning bilateral ties, especially as regards the ecological situation in the Giurgiu-Ruse border area. We shall try to integrate our interests into the ensemble of Balkan cooperation as well as in the broader framework of European cooperation," stated Romania's minister of foreign affairs on his arrival in Sofia.

In his turn, Lyuben Gotsev, Bulgaria's minister of foreign affairs, said: "We are waiting for good results out of this visit, for the development of our relations in the new conditions in Romania and Bulgaria as well as in the Balkans. The realities in our countries but also in the broader framework defined by the staged disappearance of the Warsaw Treaty call for new coordinates in bilateral collaboration. Apart from this there are also long disputed issues both at experts' level and at the level of the two countries' prime ministers and presidents. In our opinion we are at a good start."

As is known Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Adrian Nastase arrived in Sofia Sunday [28 October] evening at the invitation of Bulgaria's minister of foreign affairs Lyuben Gotsev.

Mr. Adrian Nastase will be received by President Zhelyu Zhelev, by Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov and will hold talks with his Bulgarian counterpart.

Zhelev: No Reason for Tense Turkish Relations

Meets With Turkey's Celebi

TA2510170890 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1610 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia (ANATOLIA)—Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev said here on Thursday [25 October] that there was no reason for tension in Turco-Bulgarian relations.

He was speaking at a meeting with Turkish State Minister Isin Celebi, currently visiting Bulgaria to investigate possibilities of developing economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Celebi called for the finalization of a package on wide-scale cooperation.

Zhelev in return said Bulgaria was in the course of changing speedily to a parliamentary democratic system and that it seeks help and cooperation more than ever to overcome its economic problems and attaches great importance to cooperation with Turkey.

He also said he considered "abnormal" past incidents under former Bulgarian head of state Todor Zhivkov.

He was referring to a dispute over Bulgaria's policy of assimilating its one million ethnic Turkish minority.

Bulgaria's new administration has restored the minority rights of Turks which were systematically violated [words indistinct] the rule of the former communist leader Zhivkov who was toppled last November. This development has been welcomed by Turkey.

Celebi Promises Help, Ends Visit

AU2610202490 Sofia BTA in English 1850 GMT 26 Oct 90

["Turkey Will Help Bulgaria Out of Crisis"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 25 Oct (BTA)—This coming winter Turkey will supply Bulgaria on loan with some 400,000 tonnes of fuel oil and with some electric power, which will have to be returned by the end of next year, Mr. Isin Celebi, Turkey's minister of state for economics, said today at the end of his three-day visit here. Bulgaria will also receive a 50 million dollar credit to be used for the promotion of trade and some 25 million dollars in investment credit.

Speaking at a news conference after the signing of a protocol on the understanding reached, Mr. Celebi pointed out that the Bulgarian oil refineries, which are now idle, will be used to process crude oil. Bulgarian and Turkish companies will cooperate for the joint entry on third countries' markets.

A business forum is to be established which will help activate and maintain business contacts. Borderland trade will be intensified through the setting up of free trade zones. Mr. Celebi expressed his satisfaction over Bulgaria's readiness for the implementation of the Black Sea "Common Market" idea.

The Turkish minister of state today met with the members of the Grand National Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Mr. Ivan Kostov MP. The sides exchanged views on the government's economic program and on the possible ways for an earlier and less painful transition to a market economy.

Smuggling of Heroin, Handgun Ammunition Thwarted

AU2610163390 Sofia BTA in English 1616 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—On October 24, 1990 at the Kapitan Andreevo Checkpoint at the Bulgaro-Turkish border, customs officers inspecting a FRG-registered BMW motor car No. OL-DV-363, driven by the German citizen Janke Ralf, born in 1961, found in specially designed secret compartments in the automobile's running-boards 19 plastic packs containing 4 kg. of heroin. When questioned, Janke denied any knowledge of the heroin in his car. The German citizen was arrested and handed over to the investigative authorities, the Press Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs reported today.

On October 25, customs officers at the Kalotina Border Checkpoint discovered 100 rounds of live ammunition for a Magnum 375 pistol in a Mitsubishi car, owned by the Trakiya TIR Company, No. 34-UKR-04, and driven by the Turkish citizen Akildiz Recep.

New Information on Markov Case Published

AU2810192090 Sofia BTA in English 1839 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 28 Oct (BTA)—An officer of the now disbanded notorious State Security Department Six admitted to TV journalists that he tried to persuade a friend of his to call writer Georgi Markov to Vienna, Bulgarian Television reported this evening. Georgi Markov died in still mysterious circumstances in London in 1978. A couple of days ago the television aired an interview with Markov's widow, Mrs. Annabel Markov, who asserted that her husband was killed according to a careful plan. An investigation has been launched in Bulgaria into the death of Georgi Markov. The investigation comes under the Penal Code clause on premeditated murder by an unidentified party.

Lukanov Receives ICA President Marcus

AU2610181790 Sofia BTA in English 1742 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—Mr. Andrey Lukanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received Mr. Lars Marcus, president of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), who is visiting here in connection with the 100th anniversary of Bulgarian cooperatives.

The guest stressed Bulgaria's contribution to the promotion and strengthening of the international cooperative movement. The sides considered questions concerning the expansion of cooperation between Bulgarian cooperatives and the ICA, as well as the wider use of the experience of the International Cooperative Alliance in the process of the revival of the Bulgarian cooperative movement and its transition to a market economy.

Zhelev Discusses Lukanov Program, Recent Visits

AU2710194890 Sofia BTA in English 1925 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Oct (BTA correspondent)—The Croatian daily "VJESNIK," published in Zagreb, today carries an interview with Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of Bulgaria.

Asked how far he supports the economic programme of Socialist Prime Minister Mr. Andrey Lukanov, Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev says that he sees in it a lot of similar elements to the economic programme of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS). "I will support most resolutely all political and economic decisions intended to turn Bulgaria into a modern democratic state with a modern market economy. Such a programme, however, should be linked with a political reform and with guarantees for its implementation," the president emphasizes.

Asked whether his visits to France and the United States should be viewed in the sense that he sees Bulgaria in the future oriented to the West in the first place or whether the idea of his visits was rather to solicit economic aid, Dr. Zhelev says that economic aid is important but it was not the only purpose of his trip. "It is only natural that we should seek a priority position of the West in our foreign policy," the president emphasizes, arguing that the West is the cradle of modern civilization with its political, moral and cultural values. Concerning the relations between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, the president of the Republic says that they should be built on the basis of respect, cooperation and shared interests.

Dr Zhelyu Zhelev has the following to say about Bulgaro-Yugoslav relations and the Macedonian question: "Cooperation between the Balkan peoples should rank first in Bulgarian foreign policy. As to the Macedonian question, I have repeatedly stated that it should not be an obstacle to Bulgaro-Yugoslav relations, that it should be settled on the basis of the self-determination of the inhabitants of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, without pressure, without manipulations. To talk of a Macedonian nation in Bulgaria would be tantamount to disregarding the actual state of affairs. Now, in the conditions of real democracy in our country, when everyone can freely determine his national identity, the facts show that only few people in Pirin Macedonia have come under alien influence. An invented problem should not be allowed to sour state-to-state relations and the atmosphere in the Balkans."

Lukanov Says Nation 'Cannot Afford' Socialism

AU2810163190 Sofia BTA in English 1605 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 28 Oct (BTA)—"The government program is not socialist," the Prime Minister Mr. Andrey Lukanov said today in a radio interview. He said he was still a staunch Socialist but explained that at this point Bulgaria cannot afford a socialist program because it has not got the resources for it. In his view, the economy is the country's principal problem, although he sides with the demands for faster political change. Mr. Andrey Lukanov agreed with the opposition's view that the pace of economic reform has slackened, especially since the elections. Still, as the prime minister put it, Bulgaria is not a communist country. (The President Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev used the same phrase recently).

Mr. Lukanov believes disaster would be inevitable if decisive reforms are not carried out. In his view the government program, which is already debated in parliament, contains recipes which have been fulfilled in other countries. He acknowledged as constructive a number of remarks from the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) and said he would accept them but stressed that the opposition had raised some correct but unfeasible demands, for instance to freeze price rises. He said prices would increase by 30-40 percent on the average. "Our economy is ailing, and we must go on a diet, consumption must be restricted," the prime minister said. He indicated that all opportunities for development along the previous lines have been used up, that the country had no resources and reserves, that the economy must be restructured. Mr. Andrey Lukanov admitted that this year the economic disproportions have worsened.

He stressed the need for a speedy passage of ten to fifteen economic laws underlying the program: a land act, a banking act, a foreign investment act etc. He emphasized that being dependent on the international factor the Bulgarian economy is prone to foreign aid but it can get it only if there is democracy and a market economy in the country.

Mr. Andrey Lukanov reiterated his readiness to cooperate in the government with competent people of all political forces. He believes that only a government enjoying everybody's support can implement the reforms. "I will not fill for long this post," Mr. Lukanov predicted. He said he wanted to write an analysis of the errors which led to the collapse of utopian socialism.

BSP Accused of Hiding Party Archives

AU2610134690 Sofia BTA in English 1323 GMT 26 Oct 90

["Socialists Hide Archives"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—"Our companies are working, thank goodness, nationalization has not taken place, yet," had said on October 20 at the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] Supreme Council session Dimitur Yonchev, one of the BSP leaders. "While we are in power we are to decide what to do with our archives," Yonchev had said.

Mr. Yonchev gave instructions to people working in the BSP regional archives. According to a resolution as from August this year these archive had to be submitted to the state archive. This has still not be done.

This outrageous statement made by Yonchev and taken in shorthand at the BSP Supreme Council was quoted today in parliament by oppositional MP Boyan Papazov.

At the session last Saturday Mr. Yonchev said several times that "the Socialists are not just sitting and doing nothing." He recommended that archives be distributed on the basis of "special criteria" and bearing in mind the political interests of Socialists at the moment.

"Even if the worst were to happen and we were deleted from this country's political map, even if we got in prisons and were sacked from work and left without any property whatsoever, we should have something hidden," Yonchev had said, bearing in mind the BSP archives.

Lilov Defends BSP, Reform Program at Assembly

AU2610163190 Sofia BTA in English 1451 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—The BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] will not back out of its election campaign platform, said Mr. Aleksandur Lilov, the leader of the party.

The government program is non-partisan and pragmatic. The BSP will back its endorsement and implementation, he told parliament today. The BSP urges the government to distribute fairly the burdens of the crisis and of the transition to a market economy.

In reply to yesterday's declaration of the opposition, which Mr. Lilov described as sounding like an indictment and containing threats, the Socialists leader called on the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) not to repeat the Socialists errors.

In its declaration unveiled last night the opposition demanded that the BSP take the entire guilt for the national catastrophe, that the Socialist Party property revert to the state and that the one-party government commit itself to naming and committing for trial the persons responsible for taking decisions which proved disastrous for the country. According to Mr. Lilov, the idea of this declaration is to discredit the BSP.

Discussing Mr. Lukanov's program, Mr. Lilov said that he sees nothing disturbing in the fact that it has borrowed the rational elements from the opposition's campaign program. "This is the right approach," he stressed, presenting it as evidence of political democracy and pluralism.

Mr. Lilov had some critical remarks on the program on account of its uncoordinated reform measures, insufficient details and suprasocial character. More categorical guarantees are needed to protect the socially disadvantaged, the children and the elderly, the Socialists' leader emphasized. He repeated several times that the BSP will not back out of its election platform.

"We have adopted the principle of returning to the state what has been built by state funds, but the party will keep what has been built with funds provided by party members and supporters," Mr. Lilov said, referring to the opposition's accusations in connection with the BSP property.

At the end of his speech he again called for "the page of the past to be closed."

Tambuev on 'Secret List of Guilty Communists'

AU2610135790 Sofia BTA in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 90

["Secret List of Guilty Communists"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—After "SVOBODEN NAROD" carried on October 24 a list of 101 former and present BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] (now BSP) [Bulgarian Socialist Party] members as guilty for this country's disastrous condition, the daily continues on the same topic today and carries an interview with Socialist M.P. Georgi Tambuev.

"There is, indeed, a list with the names of 120 people and documentation about their actions, but it is (I am not sure, under what sort of circumstances) secret," Georgi Tambuev, who is working in "DUMA," says. Two years ago his journalistic discoveries about a family from Todor Zhivkov's clan led to his expulsion from the BCP and sacking from work. He was later rehabilitated. According to Tambuev this list was mentioned at the recent 39th BSP Congress, but in spite of the congress demands that at least the delegates should be shown this list it was not done. The growing curiosity in relation with the list has grown further after Yordan Zarchev, former chairman of the Committee on Party Ethics, said: "If you only knew what those people had done, oh that you only knew...." After the list was published by "SVOBODEN NAROD," it was again Zarchev who told Tambuev that it was not the same list.

Tambuev himself also thinks that the carried list is incomplete. He would personally like to see in it the

names of Petur Tanchev (former BZNS leader) [Bulgarian National Agrarian Union], and senior BCP activists like Stamo Kerezov, Kiril Nestorov, Vasil Tsanov, Krustyu Trichkov, Georgi Pankov, etc.

Georgi Tambuev says that he himself raised the issue about the personal guilt of people in the BSP Supreme Council and in its parliamentary group and was assured that there will be an early session on this issue.

Aleksandur Tomov, deputy chairman of the BSP Supreme Council, also made a promise about the early voicing of specific facts, in a statement made on TV last week and at last night's parliament session.

Tambuev thinks that the personal and concrete guilt should be exactly determined by court, but he himself doubts it will be done. He has a different opinion from some of the members in his party regarding this issue. "I don't trust either the enquiry or the prosecutor's office or court, I don't trust the whole criminal action in Bulgaria. These bodies are burdened and it is difficult for them to point at the culprits. They are still serving a totalitarian legislature, which defends the patricians and is an iron fist against the plebeians," Tambuev said. He recalled his statement made on this issue at the Grand National Assembly, where he proposed that special laws be adopted, as it was done during the two national catastrophes in the past. Under the legislature which is acting now the competent bodies are restricted by the terms. Tambuev gives as example the preliminary investigations against Todor Zhivkov and Milko Balev which are still going on. For the 11 months since November 10, 1989, he hasn't heard that legal responsibility was demanded by anyone for crimes done during the time of totalitarian power.

Investigation of Shumen Bomb Incident Continues

AU2610140990 Sofia BTA in English 1211 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—After yesterday's explosion in the district club of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms in Shumen, the situation in this city and the neighbouring municipalities is calm. The Specialized Group for Terrorism Combat, the Chief Investigation Department and police are proceeding with their work. The examining magistrates are questioning the witnesses.

No one has assumed responsibility yet. The assumptions are that the bomb was placed by adventurist or extremist elements.

National Democrats Denounce Attack

AU2610142590 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Bulgarian National Democratic Party has issued a declaration, according to which the Executive Committee has discussed and most categorically denounced the act of terror against the headquarters of the Movement on Rights and Freedoms [DPS], conducted on 24-25 October.

The question of who stands behind the political provocations in our public life and who is interested in pushing the political development of society toward extraconstitutional acts remains open for us, the declaration reads.

Further on the declaration points out that the moral and political responsibility for the act belongs to those political forces, which in contradiction to the Constitution, allowed the establishment of an essentially ethnic-religious party in Bulgaria, and facilitated its representation in the parliament, thus strengthening the national disunity.

In conclusion the Bulgarian National Democratic Party confirms its position to refrain from recognizing the DPS' legitimacy, and appeals to all Bulgarian citizens to resist provocations and refrain from reacting to terror acts with terror.

Assembly Parties Condemn 'Terrorist Act'

AU2610163290 Sofia BTA in English 1455 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—The Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) condemns the act of terror committed on October 24 to 25 against the club of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms in Shumen, says a declaration of the DPS leadership circulated in parliament today.

Over the last few months, other crimes as well have been committed against DPS members and sympathizers, including two murders and beatings. The DPS leadership believes that the ultimate goal of these actions is to stop the democratic process in this country and to stir up interethnic strife.

In its declaration the movement suggests to all political forces, both parliamentary and extraparliamentary, to condemn the terrorist act and that the Grand National Assembly adopt an express declaration.

The bombing attack in Shumen was also condemned by the parliamentary factions of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the Union of Democratic Forces and the Bulgarian Agrarian Party. An investigation is under way.

Students Resurface With Political Demands

AU2610140190 Sofia BTA in English 1214 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 26 Oct (BTA)—After a four-month-silence the higher educational establishments' strike committees throughout this country have once again reminded about themselves with the moratorium adopted last night placing a number of demands before the National Assembly, the president, the Council of Ministers, and the Chief Prosecutor's Office. They insist now that: the

BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] (former BCP) [Bulgarian Communist Party] party property as well as the property of the other social formations like the Bulgarian Democratic Youth and the Fatherland Union be nationalized; the BSP Supreme Council publicly and unreservedly admits its guilt for "the impasse to which it brought the Bulgarian people"; immediate voicing of the names of the former state security informers and the work of the parliament mandate commission on the establishment of the M.P.'s lawful election. The students are "firmly resolute to be a warrant for Bulgaria's fate and reforms," the memorandum reads.

During the time of parliamentary elections in June, almost all higher educational establishments in this country were occupied by the students on strike. Under their pressure former President Petur Mladenov handed in his resignation for his retort "about tanks." The students were then also demanding the truth about the election results. They were promised that the results would be voiced after the Mandate Commission in parliament, the only legitimate body which could have a say on this issue, ended its work. The strike ended in the beginning of July, but the strike committees declared that they remain on the alert and promised to respond promptly if necessary.

The strike committees demand a reply to the issues they raised by November 4. They are convening a new session on November 5 "to discuss the results and possibly adopt joint actions."

The memorandum also outlines demands which are more closely connected with the students' interests, among which are weekly radio and TV time for the students' organization, urgent reforms in the system of the higher education and social insurance of the academic youth, etc.

Marxist Communist Party Founded in Sofia

AU2710190190 Sofia BTA in English 1836 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 27 Oct (BTA)—A Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists) was established here today, the Bulgarian Television reported, showing a view of the constituent meeting attended mostly by elderly people. The founders declared themselves against the restoration of capitalism in Bulgaria and pledged allegiance to the ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

After the Bulgarian Communist Party renamed itself Bulgarian Socialist Party, a Bulgarian Communist Party was established in this country but, unlike it, the newly founded party accepts the entire history of the Communist Party from its establishment to date, including the period after it seized power on September 9, 1944, a period from which the other Communist Party would rather distance itself.

New 'Right-Wing Bourgeois' Party To Register

AU2810192290 Sofia BTA in English 1837 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 28 Oct (BTA)—A Bulgarian right-wing bourgeois party will be registered in a matter of days, Bulgarian Television reported this evening. The character of the party was detailed by Mr. Valentin Mollov, who is also president of the Union of Private Entrepreneurs. He said that the transition to a market economy requires a rightist party. This view has been recently shared by many other people.

The transition to capitalism cannot be effected by the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], otherwise it would either not be a left-wing party, or would be a demagogue party.

The new party supports the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) but will stay out of it. The SDS has gone too left, Mr. Mollov believes and finds that in the SDS there are people who are incapable of serious policy-making and people who can only destabilize rather than play a constructive role.

Christian Democratic Union Holds First Meeting

AU2710163290 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The Christian Democratic Union held a constituent meeting in Sofia today. The Union was formed by a faction of the membership of the Christian Democratic Party and its leadership, as well as other new founders.

The meeting elected Mr. Kiril Markov, a historian, as the party's chairman.

The Christian Democratic Union regards itself as the rightful successor to the Christian Democratic Party, and invites all Christian Democrats and sympathisers to join it. The Christian Democratic Union is politically aligned with the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] and is applying to become a member of the SDS.

Peasant Youth League Founded in Sofia

AU2710165690 Sofia BTA in English 1632 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 27 Oct (BTA)—A Peasant Youth League was established today. According to the organizers, it will "not be the next short-lived newcomer to public life in the country but will provide an effective form to unite the efforts of young people in the countryside in defence of their socio-economic interests."

The union will seek to help the promotion of free enterprise.

The founders declared that their union will not be directed by any political organisation and will oppose state policy when it is inconsistent with the interests of the Bulgarian countryside.

CPCZ Central Committee on Upcoming 18th Congress

Proposes Party's Federalization

AU2610195390 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 23 Oct 90 p 2

[CTK report: "Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee Discussed Preparations for the 18th Congress"]

[Text] Prague (CTK)—At its session in Prague on Monday [22 October], the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] Central Committee dealt with preparations for the 18th CPCZ Congress. The draft of the party's new organizational order provides for the principle of federation, built from below on the basis of the voluntary decision of congresses of individual parties. The parties can also secede from the federation in the same way.

The executive committee approved a draft agreement between the CPCZ Central Committee and the Czech Republic Ministry of Interior, under which the appropriate parts of archive material from the archives of the CPCZ Central Committee, the former CPCZ Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism, and party institutions directly subordinated to the CPCZ Central Committee will be handed over to the State Archive.

Mohorita Criticizes Proposals

LD2710202990 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1500 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] Central Committee, meeting in Prague today [27 October], has been discussing preparations for the party's 18th congress [to be held 3-4 November].

Central Committee First Secretary Vasil Mohorita criticized the adopted economic reform policy which is expected to lead to mass unemployment. He also rejected the proposed method for large privatization because the CPCZ thinks that national property must pass into the hands primarily of those who create it and multiply it. He also highlighted the importance of the communal elections, which are an opportunity to show that the CPCZ is not concerned with social demagogy or cheap populism.

Vasil Mohorita criticized the government proposal to expropriate Communist Party property because it also seeks to expropriate property which was acquired with the money of party members and sympathizers. In Mohorita's view, this proposal raises serious questions about the declared common interest of political parties and movements in the development of democracy, and is a breach of the state's constitutional system.

Former Deputy Interior Minister Arrested Again

LD2610103190 Prague CTK in English 0903 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 26 (CTK)—Lieutenant-General Alojz Lorenc, former Czechoslovak deputy interior minister, was taken into custody yesterday, for the second time this year.

Since last spring, criminal proceedings have been underway against General Lorenc for the criminal act of abusing the power of a public official. As new circumstances have been found during the investigations and there is the danger that Lorenc might go into hiding or influence witnesses, the Czechoslovak military prosecutor ordered his taking into custody.

Lorenc spent 100 days in custody this spring but was released on July 11. He had been accused of illegally ordering the destruction of important secret police documents last December.

Lorenc's name has been widely mentioned in connection with the suppression by the police of a student demonstration last November 17 which started public protests that resulted in the fall of the communist regime. The role of the secret police, run by General Lorenc at that time, has not been fully explained. A new parliamentary commission has been set up to investigate the circumstances which led to the November events, interpreted by some sources as an attempted coup by the secret police.

Government Reinforces Police Forces Until 31 Mar

LD2610230990 Prague CTK in English 1739 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 26 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Government has decided that a total of 4,000 members of the border guard and soldiers of the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior, 2,225 out of this number in the territory of the Czech Republic and 1,775 in the Slovak Republic, will join the police.

This considerable reinforcement of police units was necessary as police work is extremely difficult. Despite the activation of all police units an immense rise in criminal activities has not been prevented so far.

A total of 1,000 border guard members and soldiers of the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior had joined the police already before.

This measure is in effect till March 31, 1991.

Barta Compares His Case to Bartoncik Affair

AU2710183990

[Editorial Report] Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech on 24 October on page 6, under the headline "A New Affair Launched," carries a 1,200-word interview

with Boleslav Barta, chairman of the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy—Society for Moravia and Silesia, by Libor Jan. In the interview, the place and date of which are not given, Barta denies accusations—raised by Stanislav Devaty, deputy for the Civic Forum [OF]—of his, Barta's, alleged collaboration with the StB, the Czechoslovak secret service. To demonstrate that Devaty's accusations are untenable, Barta reviews the history of his persecution, and resistance to the Husak regime, in the last 20 years. He challenges Stanislav Devaty to name the "reliable sources" on which his accusations are based and announces that he will take legal action against Devaty. In one of his replies, Barta draws a parallel between his case and that of Josef Bartoncik, former chairman of the Czechoslovak People's Party, who has also been charged with having been an StB agent. As Barta points out, both affairs were launched by the Civic Forum against their most serious contenders—the Czechoslovak People's Party, which was the Civic Forum's strongest rival before the parliamentary elections, and the Society for Moravia and Silesia, which is now, prior to the local elections, the second strongest political force in Moravia. Barta draws attention to the same "pattern" of the two affairs: "Someone may consider this pattern useful, but it is a pattern of political banditry. It is not arguments and facts which matter in it but a personal vilifying attack aimed at achieving electoral success."

Official Clarifies Split in Agrarian Party

AU2610202390 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 23 Oct 90 p 2

["mm"-signed report: "Czechoslovak Agrarian Party Divided by Agreement"]

[Text] Prague—As ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY reported yesterday, the Czechoslovak Agrarian Party has split into two national parties. The party's Slovak part has constituted itself as the Slovak Farmers Party.

The central committee of the party's Czech and Moravian part met at Dobra Voda near Horice this weekend. S. Kozak, who is acting chairman of the party's Czech and Moravian part, said: "The division was agreed upon in advance, it is no sensation. We will run in the communal elections in various coalitions, depending on local conditions. Coalitions with communists are ruled out, however. The name Czechoslovak Agrarian Party continues to be legally valid. The election of a party chairman, the approval of new statutes, and other matters are on the agenda of the party congress scheduled for 12 January 1991."

J. Stych, press secretary of the Czechoslovak Agrarian Party, said: "The congress will also decide on the party's merger with other agricultural parties. We have established even closer cooperation with the Czech-Moravian Cooperative Farmers Union and are in contact with the Free Farmers Party. In view of the present price of diesel fuel, we have decided to convene as soon as possible a consultative meeting of all agricultural political parties and movements, including the Association of Private Entrepreneurs in Agriculture. We must assume a clear joint stand on the government measure because, in our opinion, the price of 15 korunas per liter of diesel fuel will lead to the collapse of the food market.

OF Urges Preserving Plurality of Views

LD2710022390 Prague CTK in English 1943 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 26 (CTK)—"Plurality in views should be preserved in the Civic Forum [OF]," OF representative Petr Kucera said, adding that the essence of creating opinion streams is to increase efficiency of the OF activity. He told a press conference here today that the movement's structure would be changing as in some regions and districts dissatisfaction with it is increasing. OF at lower levels now favour the creation of a firmer structure. Therefore there was the demand to elect Vaclav Klaus chairman of the OF Forum, Petr Kucera stated.

He went on to say that the movement appreciates the fact that the Slovak National Council (parliament) approved a variant of the law on Slovak as the official language drafted by the government coalition. The rejection of the Matica Slovenska proposal (Matica Slovenska is a Slovak cultural institution) prevented a constitutional crisis. According to Kucera, the start of the economic reform will draw attention of people to fundamental issue. In Slovakia this will partly divert attention from the nationalist issue and in the Czech lands the big interest in coping with the past will cease to exist.

On a forthcoming meeting between Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, the governments and representatives of the coalition parties in Slavkov, South Moravia, the OF representative said it had been initiated by the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement with the aim to discuss concepts of a future federation. The meeting will be followed by a number of rallies organized by the VPN and the OF in Bratislava, West Slovakia, Banska Bystrica, Central Slovakia, Kosice, East Slovakia, in the Czechoslovak capital of Prague and other towns.

Klaus Adviser Denies Statements in Daily

AU2610143190

[Editorial Report] Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 23 October on page 2 carries a 500-word statement by Petr Havlik, adviser of Civic Forum Chairman Vaclav Klaus, entitled "We Are All Political Children." In the statement, Havlik "resolutely denies" the statements attributed to him in the referent MLADA FRONTA DNES article as "speculations and deductions" of Mr. Kovanda, the author of the article. Havlik admits that he met Karel Kovanda on 19 October. He stresses, however, that their conversation was "unofficial, noncommittal, and friendly," that it was not meant for publication, and that Kovanda never submitted his article for authorization. Havlik accuses Kovanda of

having violated journalistic ethics and the rules of "fair play" in the search for "cheap sensations." He reiterates that he would never make the statements attributed to him because this would amount to a "political suicide."

Communist Party Protests Dlouhy's Statement

AU2710183590 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 24 Oct 90 p 5

["zr"-signed report: "J. Svoboda's Letter to M. Calfa"]

[Text] Prague—Jiri Svoboda, chairman of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, sent a letter to CSFR Premier Marian Calfa, in which he responds to a recent statement by Minister Vladimir Dlouhy [at the Civic Forum Assembly on 13 October], according to whom it is not possible for communist experts to occupy responsible positions because the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] is opposed to the economic reform.

The letter states that in a number of their documents, the CPCZ and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia endorsed economic reforms as inevitable. The view of the CPCZ and its deputies differs, however, from the blueprint for the economic reform as submitted by the Federal Government—as does, incidentally, the view of many noncommunist economists—because the government's blueprint gives disproportionate preference to private ownership relations and largely ignores cooperative ownership or employee ownership and completely ignores employee leases, forms which exist as fully-fledged alternative options in Western democracies.

The letter stresses that "calling for the job persecution of members of any political party because of the critical objections raised by deputies of this party in representative bodies is absurd, unacceptable, and incompatible with parliamentary democratic practice." Members of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia are not influenced in any way in the execution of their profession, or bound, by views expressed by their deputies in representative bodies. The organizational rules of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia explicitly forbid such influence.

Minister V. Dlouhy's statement is at sharp variance with Convention No. 111 of the General Conference of the International Labor Office on the inadmissibility of discrimination for reasons of race, religious belief, or political conviction. The CSFR Government ought to make a public statement on this question of principle, the letter says in conclusion.

Pithart Supports Decision on Slovak Language Bill

LD2710021590 Prague CTK in English 2011 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 26 (CTK)—"We shall lay stress on a rapid conclusion of the discussions about powers. Our conviction is that we do not need to agree upon everything at any rate because this would mean again a delay in the date which has been delayed already," Czech Premier Petr Pithart told CTK in the spa in Luhacovice, South Moravia, today. Speaking about the planned meeting of the Czech, Slovak and Czechoslovak Governments in Slavkov near Brno in South Moravia, the premier, who has been recommended a rest in the South Moravian spa by doctors, said that the power-sharing bill is to be submitted to the Federal Assembly by November 20.

He appreciated yesterday's decision of the Slovak National Council in connection with the enactment of Slovak as the official language. The deputies had to decide under big pressure but they let themselves not be influenced by the people in the centre of Bratislava. At that moment they decided not only about the fate of Slovakia in the framework of Europe but about the fate of the whole federation as well. If they had accepted the other proposal by Matica Slovenska, Europe would have been disgusted, Pithart underlined.

Slovak Party Holds Rally at Council Building

LD2610095190 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0500 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Late in the evening, several thousand people were still in front of the Slovak National Council building. Slovak National Party representatives called on them to demonstratively display their disagreement with the present policy of the Slovak National Council and Slovak Government by holding a general strike. However, its date was not announced.

At the rally in front of Slovak National Council building, Slovak Justice Minister Ladislav Kosta assessed the address of Vitazoslav Moric, Federal Assembly deputy and Slovak National Party chairman, in these words: A justified suspicion exists that Mr. Moric's address creates prerequisites for the criminal act of incitement. This is why we turned to the Czechoslovak Office of Prosecutor General to start criminal prosecution against him after the immunity committee of the Federal Assembly grants is consent to strip him of his deputy's immunity.

Adoption of Slovak as Official Language Protested

LD2610144690 Prague CTK in English 1233 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bratislava Oct 26 (CTK)—The Christian Democratic Group in the European Parliament has sent a letter to the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement in Slovakia before yesterday's adoption of the law on the official state language to express concern if Slovak was to become the only official language without exception.

(One of the three drafts presented to the Slovak National Council contained this demand but it was turned down.)

The letter was addressed to Fedor Gal, chairman of the Slovak Council of the VPN, the public movement that

co-authored the government draft which was finally adopted and which recognizes the right of ethnic minorities to use their languages in official contacts.

The letter said that the Slovak nation should realize the deep changes in the world. Slovakia cannot be isolated from the development of the new mass culture which will change the thinking and behavior patterns of the Slovaks, Hungarians, Romanians, and Romanies. The Slovak nation must spread its culture also in other languages than Slovak, the letter said.

Engineering Faculty students of the Bratislava Technical College went on strike today in protest against the adoption of the government draft on Slovak as the official language by the Slovak National Council (parliament) yesterday. They demand a nation-wide referendum on the official language, censure the parliament and call for the declaration of the Slovak parliament's sovereignty over the territory of the Slovak Republic, the smaller of Czechoslovakia's two constituent parts.

The statement was supported by students of at least three other technical faculties and the Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University in Martin.

Slovak Social Democratic Party Holds Congress

LD2710202190 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1130 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The first congress of the Slovak Social Democratic Party is under way in Bratislava. The slogan is: Solidarity, democracy, and social justice. Editor Igor Matlon reported by phone that in a report on the party's activity, Chairman Boris Zala stressed that this congress should mark the end of the phase of the party's renewal. He went on to outline the main features of the party's development strategy, which includes a socially and environmentally oriented market, a social state, and social self-government under the specific conditions in Slovakia.

Calfa Interviewed on Slovak Council Session

LD2710021690 Prague Television Service in Czech 1850 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Interview with CSFR Prime Minister Marian Calfa, by unidentified correspondent; from the "Ten Minutes With the Prime Minister" program; place and date not given; correspondent asks questions in Czech, Calfa responds in Slovak—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, today I cannot begin with any other question. What is your view on the results of the voting in the Slovak National Council on the language law?

[Calfa] I would like to say that, yesterday, I followed the whole matter in great detail with great anticipation and great interest throughout the day, and I would like to take this opportunity to offer my wholehearted congratulations to the Slovak National Council on the way it voted, on the law it passed and the content of that law. This shows that the Slovak National Council and its deputies are indeed a body with a unique standing, a unique culture, a unique perception, and, I would add, a body which recognizes that this was not only an internal state matter but also a matter of Slovakia's and Czechoslovakia's relations with the world around it. That is my first point.

A great deal of work in this respect was also done by the Slovak Government, headed by Prime Minister Meciar, who clearly supported this same draft right from the beginning. I personally believe that Slovakia, therefore, has really exceptionally worthy representation which has managed, even in such a difficult situtation, to keep a cool head and come to some sort of a decision.

[Correspondent] What is your view of the atmosphere which accompanied this decision process, specifically on the pressure on the deputies before the vote that continues even now, after the law has been passed?

[Calfa] We must say clearly that the Slovak National Council is a body of deputies that emerged from the free elections. The Slovak Government is a body which emerged out of the coalition talks, and it has been approved and ratified by the Slovak National Council. Thus, Slovakia today, like the whole of Czechoslovakia, has democratic institutions, and under the Constitution only these institutions are entitled to take decisions on matters of this kind. In law, the principle applies that an expression of will made under duress is invalid. In other words, the law itself condemns such pressure. My personal view is that this method of influencing the work of the Slovak National Council and the Slovak Government must be condemned. That is point one.

Point two: I want to say that we must finally make up our minds. If we have such democratically elected bodies, and if there are people calling for them to resign and for their work to be influenced or undermined in some way, then we must have recourse to all the options offered by the law and by the institutions we have to uphold the law.

Third, as a Slovak, I am terribly disappointed in the way Matica Slovenska has behaved. I would not say the whole institution, but some of its representatives—for instance, every Slovak listening to Matica Slovenska's voice gets the idea that it is an institution with a great history and great achievements, and we have an inherent affinity with it—when certain representatives of this institution put themselves in a position where they are organizing pressure tactics with a clear political slant, then I really think they are doing Matica Slovanska a disservice. I see the atmosphere created clearly includes pressure tactics against the democratically elected bodies, and, therefore, I also condemn it.

[Correspondent] Associated with these problems is another event which took place this week, namely the arrival of some members of the Slovak Government in Prague to hold discussions on the power-sharing bill. It is

common knowledge that there are a number of problems and conflicts here. Would you like to comment?

[Calfa] I must say that a rather intriguing atmosphere has been created around this matter, which lies mainly in the fact that on Monday [22 Oct] evening we were in Bratislava discussing these matters with representatives of Public Against Violence [VPN] and the Slovak Government. It was agreed that the following day Prime Minister Meciar would head a group of Slovak Government representatives to Prague for talks on power-sharing issues. So, off they went.

It was not a surprise visit; they went with the clear intention of discussing the draft which they took the initiative of devising. These discussions took place at the political level, that is to say with Civic Forum [OF] and VPN, and at government—Czech and Slovak Government—level and included representatives of the Federal Government. They were also held in the OF and VPN parliamentary clubs. All these meetings discuss the way in which the draft came into being, what it contained, how it figured with the results of the discussions by the working groups, and so forth.

We were all informed in great detail in Prague about what it contains and how they intend to pursue it further. We agreed that this draft, the result of the working group, the stand of the Czech Government, and the stand of the federal legislature would be put on the same table and that a working group of legislators would be set up, organized by us at federal level, and work by inviting representatives of all three executive bodies to hold mutual consultations and reach conclusions. In other words, we are working in the normal way on the draft of the new constitution.

Needless to say, not all the Slovak Government's idea got an enthusiastic reception by some Federal Assembly deputies, but that is only to be expected. Nothing is signed and sealed; everything is still under discussion, and both the Czech and Slovak national councils will then have the opportunity to assess the results of this work, as will the Federal Assembly, which will finally adopt this change in legislation.

Yes, there are areas of contention; there are areas of contention in matters of transportation, in the organization of the banking system, in codifying respective fields of jurisdiction over environmental protection and development, in some aspects of fiscal policy and social policy. These are things we are debating, but there is one conclusion: If we cannot agree on something, we will not argue about it; it will simply be put on the back burner to be tackled again at a later stage.

[Correspondent] I would be glad if the contentious issues concerning the media, which also rank among those on which an agreement has not yet been reached, are concluded as well. I would now like to ask you the last question, Mr. Prime Minister. We have talked already twice about your trip to Moscow, and now the invitation has arrived, and you will be going 30 October. I would now like to ask you: What will you be taking with you to Moscow, and how are you prepared for the trip?

[Calfa] I would like to mention, first, who is going to Moscow, and then I will say what we are taking with us to Moscow. Deputy Prime Minister Vales; Minister Dlouhy; two republican ministers heading the industry department; a number of deputy ministers of finance, foreign affairs, foreign trade, and economy; and bank representatives will travel to Moscow. This is the composition of the delegation, and it indicates what our talks will include.

We want to discuss all bilateral questions. Everything is open, and it bothers us because the beginning of the new year is approaching, and in the past we already had a notion at this time about what our mutual relations in the coming year would be like. They are of extraordinary importance to the development of our state. They will influence our economy in the coming year, and, therefore, we have a special interest in being clear on the matter.

We want to be clear on the crude oil matter. We want to be clear on the gas matter. We will talk about deliveries of raw materials from the Soviet Union, the reasoning behind these deliveries, the method of payment, the level at which the agreement on these deliveries should be taken—whether it will be at the union, republican, or local level. We talk about three levels.

We would like to know what will happen with regard to payments in freely convertible currencies and with regard to the mechanism of such payments. It has been shown that the original notions about free convertibility and mutual settlements of such payments from 1 January will have to undergo an examination, because it will probably be necessary to scale these payments over several years.

We will have to look at the future of the talks on compensation for damage following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia.

We have learned that the Soviet Union will make it possible for their citizens to travel freely from 1 November, and, therefore, we will have to discuss the whole issue of crossing the Soviet-Czechoslovak borders, including what regulations the Soviet side will use and what kind of regulation we will use. Of course, we will also discuss all those agreements on credit, finances, banking, and payment. We will talk about our investment ventures in the Soviet Union, which costs an enormous amount of money, and what should be done with them in the future.

We regard these talks as vital to Czechoslovakia, and we would like to return from the Soviet Union with totally concrete results. We have learned at the working level that the Soviet side has adopted the same attitude and is getting ready for the talks in a similar manner.

[Correspondent] These will not be easy talks, but against the past practices, they will be talks at partnership level between two equals. We will be rooting for you, and in a week we will return to it, Mr. Prime Minister, and you will tell us how you have fared. Thank you for the interview.

Calfa Points to Challenge of Czech-Slovak Unity

LD2710091190 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1400 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Federal Premier Marian Calfa attended today the opening of the Hall of Milan Rastislav Stafanik and the unveiling of his memorial plaque in the House of Slovak Culture in Prague. He stressed that the unity of the Czech and Slovak people in the political sphere represents an everyday challenge to us now. Marian Calfa also stressed that our young democracy is seeking the path toward a joint state system on its entry into Europe and that it does not always take sufficient account of the traditions, joint culture, and economic interconnection between the two republics.

He also mentioned the fact that on 30 October it will be 72 years since the Martin declaration of the Slovak people, in which representatives of Slovakia joined a common state of Czechs and Slovaks.

Today's ceremony was also attended by prominent representatives of the Federal Government, the two national governments, and other guests.

Dubeck Speaks at Slovak Nationalist Rally

LD2710182490 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1300 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Report by correspondent Marian Ondas on the 175th anniversary of the birth of Slovak language revivalist Ludovit Stur in Uhrovec—live or recorded, in Slovak]

[Text] [Ondas] The life and work of this giant of our [Slovak] nation was commemorated here in Uhrovec by a several thousand-strong rally of supporters of Matica Slovenska, and representatives of various political parties from the whole of Slovakia. Also attending the celebrations was Federal Assembly Chairman Alexander Dubcek.

The proceedings opened with a speech by Matica Slovenska Chairman Jozef Markus, who spoke about Stur as the creator of the Slovak literary language—a national revivalist who has not yet been given full credit in our history because what he criticized more than a century ago is still a problem today. He went on to say that the Matica Slovenska committee would insist that the Slovak National Council also discuss the Slovak language bill proposed by Matica Slovenska.

A speech was also made by Alexander Dubcek. He spoke about Ludovit Stur's legacy for today, but his speech was disrupted by some participants' whistling.

At the end of the official celebrations, Slovak National Party Chairman Vitazoslav Moric addressed his supporters.

Meciar's Position in Society Considered Strong

AU2610195190 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 23 Oct 90 p 3

[Igor Cibula commentary: "The Majority Supports Meciar"]

[Text] The reaction of the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] to Premier Vladimir Meciar's publicly presented demand that Interior Minister Anton Andras "resigns immediately on account of his incompetence" confirms the skeptical prognoses of those who just last week were prophesying this kind of government crisis. The Slovak premier would lose face if his demand failed to have the desired effect. Jan Carnogursky, KDH chairman and Slovak first deputy premier, would likewise lose political prestige if his movement complied with the premier's demand.

In such a situation, observers are justified in asking whether the existing coalition will collapse or whether the premier—who has submitted his resignation in case the Christian Democrats do not succumb to his pressure—will fall instead. It is impossible to exclude the alternative that Meciar could be entrusted with forming a new government; however, he would certainly have to find a replacement coalition partner for the KDH. He could form a minority government with the "tacit support" of some of the political parties which, to date, have been sitting in the opposition benches in the Slovak National Council.

It is also interesting to note—given the context of these considerations—that the situation within the coalition has come to a head at the very time when cracks are beginning to appear in the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement. VPN "dissidents," proclaiming themselves to be a "clearly defined right of center platform," are critical of senior officials within the VPN Coordinating Center; they want the de facto rehabilitation of Jan Budaj and consider Meciar to be a more suitable person to head the movement than Fedor Gal, the current chairman of the VPN Slovak Council. It is impossible to say with any degree of certainty whether the initiative of the so-called Budaj faction will strengthen or complicate Meciar's position in the current government crisis.

Another factor of the controversy in the government coalition is how it may be reflected in the development of internal political conditions prior to the forthcoming local elections. As a consequence of coalition disagreements, the preelection campaign atmosphere could take on a confrontational character which—in the final analysis—could damage both the KDH and the VPN. The Slovak National Party and the communists, which are currently endeavoring to find their second breath, would certainly gain most from this situation.

We cannot discount the possibility that Premier Meciar could accept the offered post of federal premier and that his post in the Slovak Government could be filled by

another VPN candidate. However, even in this case, we cannot expect that the present interior minister can continue in office. Meciar's position in Slovak society, however, does not permit such a consideration to be made because, so far, there is no one among his Slovak political opponents who could bear the burden of responsibility for the nation's fate and enjoy the same degree of trust vested in this "iron man."

Report Says Citizens Detained at Iraqi Border

LD2910144290 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1400 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received with great concern a report about the unjustified detaining of a group of ten Czechoslovak citizens on the border between Iraq and Jordan. All the members of the group, which was returning home from Iraq last Friday 26 October, were provided with valid travel documents, including exit visas issued by the authorities in Baghdad. The Czechoslovak diplomatic mission in Baghdad immediately approached the appropriate Iraqi authorities with an emphatic request to explain this unprecedented course of action. The Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has so far not reacted to repeated requests made by the Czechoslovak Embassy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs fully shares the concern of the Czechoslovak public about the fate of our citizens. Its permanent crisis staff is devoting continuous attention to the development of the situation in the area, and since the very outset of the crisis it has been conducting intensive diplomatic negotiations. According to information received from the Czechoslovak diplomatic mission in Baghdad, Czechoslovak citizens on Iraqi territory have the supply of basic foodstuffs ensured and their security is not directly endangered. The Czechoslovak public will continue to be informed about the outcome of the negotiations conducted by Czechoslovak authorities through announcements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and media reports.

Havel Receives Message From President Gorbachev

LD2710133290 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1300 GMT Oct 90

[Text] Celakovice, Podebrady, and Hradec Kralove—those are three of the towns which President Vaclav Havel will visit during his tour of the Central and East Bohemian regions today.

Shortly before leaving, he received Soviet Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Boris Pankin at Prague Castle. The latter gave him a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Dubcek Assesses 5-Day Scandinavian Visit, Talks

LD2710020690 Prague CTK in English 2048 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Prague/Copenhagen Oct 26 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Federal Assembly Chairman Alexander Dubcek told newsmen today that the main objective of his visit to Sweden, Norway and Denmark was to get acquainted with the work of parliaments in pluralist democratic states and establish closer interparliamentary ties.

At the end of his five-day Scandinavian tour, the premier said he had a feeling that some forces in Czechoslovakia do not want to settle issues but favour demagogic opinions which in fact divert attention from problems. Czechslovakia will have to take many lessons in democracy, Dubcek who returned home today said.

As to the talks held in Scandinavia on ecological issues, Dubcek said Sweden, Norway and Denmark have inspiring experiences in removing thermal power plants emission. In case Czechoslovakia used them it could partially avoid cuts in the thermal power engineering system and coal output.

Under the market economy conditions in the north of Europe, great attention is devoted to social care of citizens. This is Czechoslovakia's goal as well, Dubcek said. He pointed out that thousands of Czechoslovak citizens took shelter in the Scandinavian countries which supported the 1968 Prague spring reform course. These states should be highly appreciated for this, he said.

[Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 1300 GMT on 26 October adds in a similar report: "There was also a question on the Slovak language law. Will the rights of national minorities be respected, as in the norm of life in local democracies and as is required by international agreements? In his answer Alexander Dubcek said that one can rely on the wisdom and maturity of the majority of our population to tackle these issues sensitively and prudently."]

Interior Minister on Reasons for Oil Price Rise

LD2610162590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Statement by Interior Minister Balazs Horvath on the current rise in oil prices and the resulting taxi drivers' strike on 26 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, I am speaking to you at a difficult time. During this unsettled situation I have to explain why the government did not make public earlier the rise in gasoline prices, and why the rise is of such a large scale.

The facts are as follows: For months there have been hitches in Soviet oil deliveries; no gasoline has come from the Soviet Union since August. Owing to lost oil deliveries, as well as the explosion in the oil price which has taken place as a consequence of the Gulf crisis, world market prices have risen considerably. The price of oil has not doubled from the previous 17-18 dollars [per barrel]. The country has approximately nine days of oil and gasoline reserves for normal consumption. This, in the current situation, has decreased to four days. If consumption increases, then there will not even be this amount and a situation could easily emerge in which the country's transport is paralyzed and its economy collapses.

We ask you to understand that we cannot suspend our decison regarding the price rise because we do not have sufficient reserves, and this would inevitably lead to catastrophe.

You must also be aware that the citizens of the neighboring countries accepted and endured a series of much more rigorous measures. The country can progress forward only with tolerance and through constitutional means, since joint efforts from all of us are necessary in order for hungary to create a prospering economy for itself, after having attained freedom. If now, through giving priority to the grave problems of one or another occupational group, the country's entire functioning is paralyzed, and it could be paralyzed, if those wide strata which up to now bore the grave burdens of transformation now lose their tolerance, then our constitutional order which we created together could collapse. Now all of us face a serious and decisive decision: Order or chaos? We ask everyone to decide in favor of order, because only together can we solve our common problems.

Unions Hope To Arrange Talks

LD2610164190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The National Association of Hungarian Trade Unions [MSZOSZ] has issued a statement with respect to the situation. This is what Erika Gulyas will outline:

[Gulyas] A situation whereby a national strike is threatening has evolved in our country. This is the opinion of the MSZOSZ. For this reason they have formed a crisis team which regards its task as promoting the continuation of talks between the government and the workers. The MSZOSZ would like to ensure that on Monday [29 October] at the session of the National Interest Coordination Council, all the trade unions and representatives of the government discuss all economic and social issues, the upset of which have lead to the present demonstrations. Thus the MSZOSZ supports the demonstration of traffic workers; however, it considers talks as the only possible long-term solution.

Compromise Over Blockade Said Near

LD2610185990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Our correspondent, Peter Marvanyi, reports from the Ministry of Labor on the first compromise of the day—which, however, is only a half-time result because confirmation has yet to be given by the government.

[Marvanyi] At the talks between Miklos Szabo, state secretary for the Ministry of Labor, and the taxi drivers, a compromise has now been reached; the questiuon now is whether the government will give its approval. The essence of the compromise is that the gasoline price increase should be only 50 percent, and that substantive negotiations about the ultimate prices should begin on Monday between a government representative empowered to make decisions and the hauliers.

According to the taxi drivers leaving the talks, if the government consents to this the blockade will be suspended; if not then they will lose control over subsequent developments. If an agreement is reached, the private taxi drivers will help in the delivery of foodstuffs to eliminate the consequences of the blockade as soon as possible.

Although the events have gone beyond the conflict relating to the taxi drivers, Miklos Szabo trusts that this result will be decisive in ending the strike.

Further on Horvath Statement

LD2610191490 Budapest MTI in English 1823 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—Before the government session on Friday afternoon, Balazs Horvath, minister of home affairs, gave a statement to the HUNGARIAN NEWS AGENCY, Hungarian radio and Hungarian television.

The statement explains why the government failed to announce the petrol price hikes earlier, and accounts for the extent of the rises. [passage omitted]

The minister said that the government had not expected such a strong reaction. The government is continuously consulting over the emergency situation with Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic, and has set up three crisis teams. The first one seeks to co-ordinate interests

with the trade unions. The second one, composed of the cabinet for national security and the relevant economic ministries, was set up to find a global solution to the conflict. The third team is in charge of handling energy problems.

Horvath said the government did not want to resort to violence, and called upon the police to display tolerance. The latter is quite a quite difficult task since shop windows have been broken, and railway lines blocked, and the country's air traffic is threatened with paralysis, he said.

Minister of Home Affairs Balazs Horvath, who is performing the prime minister's functions due to the latter's sickness, said that he was in regular phone contact with Jozsef Antall, and was acting under his instructions.

Horvath said the government would not withdraw the unavoidable price hikes but would examine what to do to settle the conflict provided that the taxi driver and hauliers come forward with [word indistinct] ideas by Monday [29 Oct] afternoon. Until then, however, the blocked roads and bridges should be reopened so that life can be normalized in the country, he said.

Ministers Say Stability Threatened

LD2610223590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2100 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The international economic relations minister and the foreign minister both feel that only certain forces are interested in deepening the present crisis to prevent Hungary's historic unification before transformations take place.

Bela Kadar says it is extraordinarily tragic that certain people ignore public order, legal order, in their quest for their own interests to prevail.

Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky agrees with his colleague that demonstrations threaten stability and can have extraordinarily serious effects because the country loses its credibility and trustworthiness.

Goncz Rejects Army Intervention Against Strike

LD2610192190 Budapest MTI in English 1829 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—According to the information obtained by MTI, Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary and commander-in-chief of the Hungarian Army, issued the explicit instruction on Friday morning that the Army and its means could not be deployed in the interest of settling the conflict that has emerged because of the taxi drivers' demonstration.

Proposes Suspension of Price Hike

LD2610221790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2100 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Statement by President Arpad Goncz on rising oil prices and the resulting transportation strike; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] My fellow patriots. A crisis situation has developed in our homeland which has gone beyond the issue of gasoline prices and the demands of taxi drivers; and because this crisis is of a political nature it demands a political solution. I, therefore, have proposed to the government that it should suspend its decree relating to the gasoline price until Monday when the coordination talks with the taxi drivers can begin.

I call on the government, the leadership of the relevant ministry, and the taxi drivers to negotiate—in accordance with the offer of the taxi drivers—a way in which it is possible, with mutual agreement, to guarantee that the country's scarce gasoline reserves should not be exhausted during the suspension, and that the buying sprees at the gasoline stations which were experienced yesterday should not be repeated.

The agreement in this respect must, of course, preceed the announcement of the suspension. I ask the taxi drivers as well as the haulers that, simultaneously with the suspension announcement, they should return home and stop blocking the roads. I am sending a memorandum to parliament in which I propose that it hold an emergency session to discuss the situation on Monday.

I ask the people to refrain with wisdom and consideration during the negotiations from anything that could make the conclusion of agreements more difficult. I also ask, before anything else, that the workers in the food delivery, food trade, and the health service do everything in their power to maintain normality.

Free Democrats Urge Cabinet's Resignation

LD2610194990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] According to the Free Democrats, the present cabinet is not suitable for the further ruling of the country. At his news conference, the party's chairman stressed the heavy responsibility that rested with the government, because it had not reported openly and in a timely fashion the situation of the economy, and because it had failed to prepare a concrete action program. Evaluating recent events, Janos Kis said that they they had clearly proved the government has no connection with society at all, and it does not sense the mood of the country. According to the Free Democrats, it would now be desirable for the members of the government to hand over power to a new cabinet as soon as possible, because they will only deepen the crisis by remaining at their posts.

Issue Communique on Price Protests

LD2610200590 Budapest MTI in English 1805 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—The Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ] in a communique forwarded to the Hungarian news agency MTI on Friday, states that in the AFD's opinion "the nationwide protest against price hikes, long delayed and then dropped like a hombshell, is fully justified."

According to the communique, "during its five months in office, the government has proved its inability to handle the deepening crisis of the Hungarian economy". In the present situation, the government shows "its incompetence in dealing with the national protest against deteriorating living conditions."

"It is totally inadmissible to threaten protesters with the use of force. The only way out is through negotiation. The issue is no longer merely that of [word indistinct] of petrol, "says the communique, adding, "the country urgently needs an expert government, able to win the confidence of the citizens."

The executive of the AFD calls on protesters not to respond to provocation (?and) to keep the peace. [Words indistinct] the AFD to support the peaceful movement of the protesters, help maintain law and order, and give assistance to the work of the food supply network.

MDF Blames Government for Current Crisis

LD2610195990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] According to the national presidium of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], the government is responsible for the crisis situation that has evolved because they took measures without coordinating them with the concerned social and professional organizations. At the same time, the body stresses that the gasoline price increase was unavoidable in the interest of the survival of the country's economy and for maintaining foreign faith in the economy. The MDF believes that the crisis situation has been aggravated by the action of the taxi drivers, which has paralyzed the country's circulation. Although the MDF national presidium understands the dissatisfaction, it finds the applied methods unacceptable.

Further on Transportation Strike's Effects

LD2610184590 Budapest MTI in English 1710 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—The taxi drivers' strike is spreading all over the country. Besides Gyor, Miskolc, Nyiregyhaza, Debrecen, Szeged and Pecs, demonstrations have also begun in other major cities. Roads leading into Kecskemet, Bekescsaba, Szekesfehervar, Vac, Tatabanya, Komarom, and Szombathely have been completely blocked off by taxis. It is impossible to drive onto the M1 motorway leading from Budapest to Vienna, and the M3 motorway between Budapest and Miskolc, as these have also been cordoned off. The M7 motorway, running between Budapest and Lake Balaton, has been obstructed at the 97 kilometre point, and at the Siofok junction.

Several frontier stations cannot be reached. Hegyeshalom, Sopron, Kophaza (on the Hungarian-Austrian border) are closed to traffic. The Roszke, Tompa and Dravaszabolcs (Hungarian-Yugoslav border) stations are also inaccessible. According to the latest reports, the Danube bridge at Baja is also unpassable, as is the bridge at Szolnok on the Tisza River, in addition to the bridges of the capital.

Sandor Barna, police captain of Budapest, told MTI on Friday morning that a plan has been drawn up, with the aim of restoring normal traffic in the capital. Above all, the idea is to eliminate the traffic barricades formed by taxi drivers at the busiest junctions of the capital. They have suitable police staff available for this. Mr Barna said the road blocs break several laws. The home office minister also agrees with the measures suggested. For as long as orders are received, a matter dependent on the outcome of current talks with the private transport drivers, police will not hesitate to act.

The metropolitan Traffic Information Office said air quality in Budapest has never been as pure as today.

[Budapest MTI in English at 1727 GMT on 26 October adds in a similar report, datelined Budapest:

"The Budapest underground is under police protection, after the Budapest Transportation Company received a telephone threat, stating a bomb would go off in Deak Square station. Laszlo Rothermel, chief officer on duty at the Budapest Transportation Company, said in answer to a question by MTI that the underground is curently the only means of transport able to carry passengers from one side of the capital to the other. The officer also said the Trade Union of Mass Transportation Workers of Budapest professes its solidarity with the taxi drivers and private transport drivers, but is not joining the demonstration for the time being."

MSZP Demands Suspension of Price Increase

LD2710004690 Budapest MTI in English 1810 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—The Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) [MSZP] demands that the government suspend its petrol price hike and not settle the problem with arbitrarily seized at measures but try to solve it by incorporating it into an overall concept based on an anti-inflationary program and the necessary agreement of interests which would then be brought before parliament, states the communique of the HSP, forwarded to MTI on Friday.

In the opinion of the HSP, the government's decision will probably result in an at least a 4-6 per cent rise in consumer prices hence, creating the basis for uncontrollable spiralling inflation.

The communique reiterates that the HSP has more than once over the past few months called the government's attention to the dangers of rising inflation. It suggested the immediate drafting of a plan for curbing inflation and proposed that the government rely on the cooperation of professional experts, regardless of their party affiliations, to prevent a grave crisis. However, the proposals and initiatives of the HSP have not received due attention.

Young Democrats' Statement on 'Critical' Situation

LD2710002790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] According to the Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] the government has led the country and itself into a critical situation in the six months it has been in office. The FIDESZ National Board statement stresses that the cabinet considered its popularity before the country's interests and it misled the population with irresponsible promises. For this reason the society is protesting not only against the ill-considered price increase but also against the policy of lies. While the interior minister speaks about the actions of just a narrow elite and threatens police action, the country has mobilized, the statement says. The FIDESZ rejects any forceful solution and respects everyone's rightful claim to express their dissatisfaction with approved methods of citizens' disobedience. The statement stresses, however, that the rightful protest should not hit those who cannot remedy the grievances.

Independent TV League: Government 'One-Sided'

LD2710014290 Budapest MTI in English 1815 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—The present situation is the consequence of the government's one-sided measure, states the communique of the Democratic League of Independent Trade Unions issued on Friday with reference to the protests against petrol price hikes. The league disagrees with protests not announced previously, but calls attention to the fact that the government has acted in much the same manner.

In the league's opinion it is inadmissible that the government has not taken the issue of petrol price hikes to the Interest Co-ordination Council for discussion. The league is against solving problems by force. It sees one reasonable way: The government's measure must be suspended immediately and at the same time, demonstrations and strikes must be stopped. Solutions must be found in negotiations involving all parties concerned. The league proposed summoning the goodwill committee of the Interest Co-ordination Council.

Police Chief Stresses No Force Will Be Used

LD2610183390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest's police chief has held talks with national representatives of the capital's taxi drivers and private freighters. At the meeting, held at the request of General Sandor Barna, an agreement has been reached that the police will not use force against the drivers raising barricades. The chief has stressed that he will resign his post if he receives a command to use force against the crowd.

Pal Horvath, representative of the taxi drivers, has arranged for calling a blockade at Ferihegy Airport and at the headquarters safeguarding public order situated in the barracks in Mosonyi Street from the police headquarters.

The negotiators of those demonstrating against the government's gasoline price rise have assured the police that they wil call off the road blockades everywhere within three hours if an agreement is reached.

Army Will Also Refrain From Force

LD2710102490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] In MAGYAR HIRLAP Gyorgy Keleti, Defense Ministry spokesman, announced: Soldiers did not and will not take part in any action of armed force. The Defense Ministry only asks that the demonstrators not hold up the planned implementation of the Soviet troop withdrawal. At the same time, the Army is ready to help the population in supply, said Gyorgy Keleti.

Police Chief: Order Can Be Restored

LD2710135690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Major General Sandor Barna, Budapest police chief, by unidentified announcer; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Major General Sandor Barna, Budapest police chief, is at the other end of the telephone line. [passage omitted

Mr. Major-General, what instructions have the police been given; what are they doing on Clark Adam Square, at the (?Osztyapenko), and in the countryside?

[Barna] The policemen have received my order that they should try to maintain the normal flow of traffic as much as possible. They should try to ensure traffic on the bridges and they should do their daily work; thus they should create conditions for which we have the forces and means. This, by the way, is presently a crisis situation from the point of view of the police and [traffic] direction.

[Announcer] What means do the police have to handle the situation? Could they use force or anything against the blockades or against those who constitute the blockades?

[Barna] In theory, the police can restore traffic order. I say in theory because the intention is not enough for this; the conditions must also exist.

[Announcer] Please give a brief situation report. Where is the situation critical in Budapest?

[Barna] With the exception of Chain Bridge, because traffic is now running there, there are critical points at 30 places, according to a report of one hour ago. [passage omitted]

Government Refuses To Suspend Gas Price Hike

LD2710093990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0800 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The Hungarian Government will not suspend its measure on the gasoline price rise, because it does not see any guarantee for the country's continuous fuel supply. Talks between representatives of the government and the taxi and truck drivers continued through the night.

According to the plans, the talks will continue today, on Sunday [as heard]. Finance Minister Ferenc Rabar said that they cannot comply with the call of the president of the republic because of the freighters' hardline position. The chairman of the National Association of Private Taxi and Truck Drivers, however, stressed that they cannot settle for less than government suspension of the gasoline price rise until the continuation of the coordinating talks.

The night passed quietly nationwide. We received no news on atrocities, but the blockade continues and public transport has not resumed. Marked and food conveying vehicles, however, are allowed to pass through the towns.

Defense Minister Cuts Brussels Visit Short

LD2710120790 Budapest MTI in English 1008 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—Lajos Fur, Hungarian minister of defence who was paying an official visit to Belgium, returned to Hungary on Friday [26 October] evening, ahead of schedule. The delegation interrupted its programme so that the government could work in the most efficient way possible to solve the current situation.

Transport Workers Issue Statement on Strike

LD2710122290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Correspondent Andras Ercfalvi report]

[Text] At 1000 hours, the Operative Committee of Budapest Camers [Fuvarozok] held a press briefing, where a statement was issued. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the situation that has emerged since last night, we consider it absolutely necessary to resume talks immediately with representatives of the government. The statement, released at dawn, has not solved anything; rather, it has worsened the situation because the participants in the blockade do not believe their demands will be met. As this statement is made public, the Operative Committee of Budapest carriers is seeking contacts with competent government officials.

We consider it absolutely necessary to tell the public that, in the future, we will do our utmost to allow ambulance drivers, doctors, people delivering blood, and workers in health institutions to do their work unimpeded. We will ensure public supplies, and we will allow vehicles doing communal tasks to pass. We will ensure the free movement of public security organs and the performance of their duties. We are aware of our responsibility in the situation that has emerged; in this spirit we will take our measures. We ask for the people's continued understanding. Signed: The Operative Committee of Budapest Carriers.

The Operative Committee's agenda for today is as follows: The representatives left at 1000 hours for the [word indistinct], from which the taxi drivers will go to meet Balazs Horvath. They would like to negotiate with him. If they do not succeed, they will appeal to President Arpad Goncz to help mediate between them and the government.

Government Urges Talks To Resolve Crisis

LD2710123890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1200 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The government intends to settle the situation that has developed through negotiations on the basis of the existing constitution and valid laws. It is indispensable to conduct negotiations with the representatives of those involved in the action who are in possession of the authority necessary to conclude and implement an agreement, says the government communique that has just been issued. They are expecting the appearance of the delegation of carriers at the Labor Ministry as soon as possible. At the same time, the government informs the population that the means and reserves for essential supplies are available, and they can guarantee public supply.

Talks Resume; Stance Unchanged

LD2710145290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Interview with government spokesman Balazs Laszlo by Gyorgy Mey; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] My colleague Gyorgy Mey talked to government spokesman Balazs Laszlo on the phone not long ago, for the talks recommenced at 1330 hours [1230 GMT].

[Mey] Government spokesman Balazs Laszlo is on the line. [passage omitted]

[Laszlo] Unfortunately, the trucks carrying out the blockade did not accept the agreement, this step taken by their representatives. After this, the government announced its call and I am now pleased to report that, as a result of our call, talks resumed between representatives of the government and private carriers at half past one in the Ministry of Labour. Now, the representatives of the government, headed by Ferenc Rabar, are negotiating with the representatives of private carriers—hopefully authorized to agree and implement this time—in the Green Palace in Roosevelt Square.

[Mey] Has the government stance changed? Does it continue to reject the proposal of President Arpad Goncz, or the carriers' stance? In other words, are you insisting on higher gasoline prices?

[Laszlo] The government has not yet modified its stance; it is convinced that it cannot fully suspend or withdraw higher gasoline prices; it is offering compensation for private carriers invariably.

[Mey] What does that mean, that it cannot withdraw them fully?

[Laszlo] Fully means with regard to all consumers.

[Mey] I see. Is it possible that the price of approximately 60 forints will change into a price of approximately 50 forints?

[Laszlo] I do not wish to discuss this now. According to the government's present position, it is not possible.

[Mey] What will the government do if the carriers are uncompromsing, too?

[Laszlo] We hope that it will not be like that. This is now the government's position, and I cannot tell you any more about this issue.

[Mey] How does the government evaluate the situation at the moment?

[Laszlo] The government believes that, so far, the population has shown great patience in a very difficult situation.

[Mey] You have emphasized: so far.

[Laszlo] As supplies are becoming more and more difficult, the government is doing its best to use all possible means to guarantee public supply. It is obvious that if the public supply situation is worsening—that is, if the blockade remains—then it is possible that the public mood will not remain like this for long.

[Mey] What means does the government have to ensure that public supply is relatively undistrubed—that is, at least so as it is now?

[Laszlo] According to our information, appropriate reserves are available from essential food products, and, if necessary, we can use Army vehichles for their distribution in shops.

Strike Effects Updated

LD2710160790 Budapest MTI in English 1038 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 27 (MTI)—Although the government and the private taxi drivers and hauliers reached a temporary agreement in the early hours of Saturday, Hungary was still under a traffic blockade in the morning.

In Budapest, mass transport, with the exception of the underground and the suburban railways, is out of operation.

There were no major hitches at the Hungarian railways. Planes are landing and taking off from Ferihegy Airport, and Malev Hungarian airlines makes it possible for its passengers to approach or leave the airport.

In the provinces, there were no atrocities at night. The blockade was maintained and mass transport paralysed everywhere. However, the special vehicles, including ambulance cars and fire-engines, and the trucks carrying food were let in the cities.

The access road to the Gyula border-crossing point in eastern Hungary was also blocked.

The government and the delegates of private taxi drivers and hauliers reached a temporary agreement at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Accordingly, the delegates called upon their colleagues to suspend the blockade. They announced that the talks would be resumed on Sunday [28 Oct] morning and the national interest coordination council convened for the same day to find a mutually acceptable compromise by Monday evening. Until then, the higher prices remain in effect. Jeno Barcsai, president of the National Association of Private Hauliers, said they concluded the agreement so that their colleagues could have a rest and that transport should not be hindered on All Souls' Day. Barcsai stressed that the blockade would only be suspended for Saturday and Sunday. Should the Sunday talks end in failure, the blockade will be resumed, he said.

The negotiating delegation of the government issued a statement before dawn on Saturday, stressing that the government, recognizing and appreciating the mutual endeavour for reaching an agreement and keeping the extraordinary situation and the international evaluation of the country in view, expressed its firm commitment to continue the talks and coming to an agreement. On the

basis of its agreements with the hauliers, the government has initiated to convene the interest coordination council.

The National Association of Private Hauliers, the Budapest Association of Hauliers, the Budapest Association of Taxi Drivers and the Budapest Societies of Taxi Drivers issued the following statement at Saturday dawn:

Taking the economic situation of the country, the public sentiments, and the forthcoming All Souls' Day into account, we ask the private hauliers and their supporters hindering traffic on roads, bridges and border-crossing points to suspend the blockade of the country. The talks will be resumed on Sunday morning in the session of the national interest coordination council. In case of failure, the blockade will be resumed in an organized way, the statement says.

Strike Talks Suspended

LD2710171890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Report on talks between the government and striking transportation workers by correspondent Jozsef Orosz; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] The talks have not broken off; actually, they started at 3:00 [1400 GMT].

The talks have now been suspended. The government delegation headed by Finance Minister Ferenc Rabar has moved across to the parliament building, where the workers will coordinate their stand with the government.

The discussion has reached an extremely critical phase. As those present—that is, the workers, the taxi drivers, and the representatives of the government and trade union—have said—or rather, leaked—there is a chance for compromise. It is impossible to know what price on which they have agreed. We have heard figures of 42 or 43 forints for the price of gasoline, although the package proposed by Ferenc Rabar also mentioned that rationing might be introduced at today's prices, and that they would give 50-60 liters a month to every automobile driver. [passage omitted]

'Atrocities' Said Increasing

LD2710183190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpt] As the evening draws nearer, the mood is increasingly tense throughout the country. In Budapest, in front of the parliament building on Kossuth Square, a police cordon separated taxi drivers and pro-government demonstrators. The latter then marched to the television building; they are now heading here, toward the radio building.

Atrocities are increasing; a fight broke out in Debrecen between Soviet tourists and those manning the roadblocks. In Eger, a bus tried to drive through the road barricades, pushing a crowd of 30 before it. In Miskolc, people prevented the resumption of public transport, while in Pecs the roadblocks are again standing in the inner city; the siege of Veszprem is continuing, too.

The border crossing at Rajka is closed, and so is the Tisza bridge at Szolnok. According to a telephone call by a listener—we have not been able to check it, as it arrived only a few minutes ago—in Kispest, at the bus central station, and at Hatar Street, 1,000 people started to dismantle the roadblock. [passage omitted]

Goncz Withdraws Emergency Assembly Session Request

LD2710175590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Arpad Goncz has changed his position and no longer asks for the convening of an emergency session of the National Assembly.

The president of the Republic decided this because, in his view, optimistic negotiations are taking place between the cabinet and the representatives of the taxi drivers and haulers.

Defense Ministry Spokesman on Military Help

LD2710193790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Studio interview with Defense Ministry spokesman Colonel Gyorgy Keleti by unidentified correspondent on the transportation strikes; place not given—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Colonel Keleti, may I be so indiscreet as to ask you first and foremost to sum up very briefly what the Army is prepared for, what it will do, and what it has done?

[Keleti] The Army has, in fact, prepared for one thing, and this it will do: If serious problems and difficulties of public supply develop in the country, then it will give the appropriate help. Unfortunately it will have to do this, because in Budapest and also in several provincial cities, indications have arrived—indications which have been checked—to the effect that problems of bread and milk supply have emerged because of the road blockades.

The Army deliveries started last night from 1000 onwards—first and foremost, I repeat, in the capital. During the night, some 50 freight vehicles carried out these food deliveries, accompanied by police cars. There were no incidents or atrocities involving those blockading the roads.

[Correspondent] Are they letting the military vehicles through without further ado?

[Keleti] They have been letting them through, with a police escort, during the night and this morning. This afternoon we told those taking part in the events that the police escort will be discontinued because the number of delivery demands has increased to such an extent. In

other words, we have a lot more freight vehicles—some 100-120 of them—traveling to the various towns in the country, and we have asked them to continue to allow these to get through. Furthermore, we would again request that via CB radios—that is to say, their own sets—they also inform the next road blockade that a convoy of trucks, or a truck, carrying food deliveries is on its way.

I would like to highlight one thing. None of the soldiers carries any weapons. They are taking part in this exclusively in a workforce capacity, as persons helping public suply. Furthermore, these freight trucks are not military vehicles either, but rather, well, jeeps, which are what the Army has. I would also like to say that these deliveries are much more expensive than if they were made by those whose job this is. I, however, feel that now, in this situation, the Army is performing a basic duty.

[Correspondent] Col. Keleti, I would like to allude to the denial of the rumor, or the hearsay, that the military is going to intervene. The question springs to mind: Why? Was there any question of this? Then I remembered that last night, around 2345, we were at the Pest side of the Erzsebet Bridge, and there they were saying that a police detachment with military reinforcement would cut a way through among the taxi drivers there. This was later denied saying there was no question of this. Was there some basis for this earlier on?

[Keleti] There is no basis for this of any kind—or rather, it has no foundation—because in the terms of the present Constitution the use of the Army in its capacity of armed forces is possible exclusively according to the decision of parliament, and that, too, exclusively against foreign forces. In other words, the Army prepares for the defense of the country's sovereignty. The Army cannot be made to perform the task of police force, and neither is there at present any training of this nature in the Army.

[Correspondent] So, if I understand correctly, nobody can even issue such a command?

[Keleti] That is correct.

[Correspondent] Incidentally, what are they prepared for? I mean, with regard to the practical, tactical tasks, about which you have just been speaking? In other words, will they be doing this for one day, two days, or a week? What are your plans, and how far ahead do you see?

[Keleti] The Army still has certain reserves, especially fuel reserves, as this is the important thing, because this is what is needed for deliveries. These reserves, too, are finite, as our stocks have been put aside for a conflict situation, and not primarily for use in a peacetime situation. In addition, these stocks are being consumed now not only by ourselves; furtherjore, I think this is understandable, because we will also give fuel to the ambulance vehicles if necessary, if they cannot fill up at the civic or civilian gas pumps. Moreover, let me add that we have also prepared for providing this kind of service for the police or fire brigade vehicles. It is our duty to do this, but the amount of help we can give is limited; I could not say how many weeks, days, or hours. We will be giving this help as long as the government considers it necessary, and I think that there is nothing else that the Hungarian Army can do now in this situation. I would like to come back to one very important thing. As a matter of fact, we have said it several times, but there have been indications of this today as well, that the Soviet troop withdrawal is being obstructed by the demonstrations taking place in several parts of the country. I state emphatically to those who are taking part in the road blockades, or eventually in establishing the railway blockades, that the accomplishment of the Soviet troop withdrawal according to the plans is in the fundamental interest of the Hungarian Republic. We received indications today that at the Dunafoldvar Bridge, which is both a road and rail bridge, the blockades are impeding rail traffic, and from the western side of the Danube it is across this bridge that the Soviet trains, whose withdrawal is being obstructed, have to cross. I think that we must not give the Soviets an opportunity to, in a few months' or half a year's time, allude to these days.

Official Says No State of Emergency Exists

LD2710194190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Report by correspondent Agnes Papp on Interior Ministry news conference attended by State Secretary Imre Verebelyi and National Police Commander Gyoezoe Szabo on the 27 October transportation strikes; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] There is no state of emergency; however, an extraordinarily serious situation exists which must be settled by Monday, State secretary Imre Verebelyi said at an Interior Ministry news briefing. Public order and public safety could be endangered, as is the country's ability to function—and even democracy too—if the demonstrators do not clear certain roads, regardless of the political negotiations. [passage omitted]

The Ministry of the Interior has called on city mayors to start negotiations on various settlements in respect of the roadblocks, and to create the minimum humane conditions in their settlements.

Public administration does not intend to interfere in other ways. The situation demands a political settlement, the state secretary declared. Village and town halls are open for those unable to return home, and food and temporary accomodation are being provided for those needing it.

Civil defense units have not yet been alerted, but all have been prepared for a state of emergency. They have sufficient energy and foodstuff reserves, but in the view of the state secretary, hopefully they will not be needed.

Crime has not grown significantly, but atrocities have taken place in several parts of the country. [passage omitted]

Gyozo Szabo, national police commander, stressed that this demonstration was not legal. The police department is trying to take steps against breaches of the law and to prevent crime; however, it will not use force to stop the demonstration. [passage omitted]

The number of bomb threats has grown, but so far all such calls have proved unfounded.

Those who suffer damage can take matters to court. On this basis the demonstrators causing damage can be called to account using court proceedings.

Unions Think Crisis 'Must End by the Weekend'

LD2710195890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The crisis monitoring team of the National Federation of Hungarian Trade Unions thinks that the crisis reigning in the country must end by the weekend, otherwise there is a danger that unmanageable processes will occur. According to the body, the first step must be taken by the government. The trade unions have proposed that the cabinet suspend the gasoline price increase for 36 hours and curb the amount of purchasable fuel. The other proposal is that the government guarantee the reduction of the consumer tax included in the gasoline price, thereby reducing the price itself. Private haulers should guarantee the lifting of the road blockades. The trade unions' consultative body has asked the president of the republic to make a declaration that the participants and organizers of the demonstration will not be called to account.

Interior Minister Horvath Appeals for Calm

LD2710202390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Outside Parliament House this afternoon there was a demonstration supporting the government and condemning the taxi drivers' protest. On the steps of Parliament House, Interior Minister Balazs Horvath appealed to the participants for order and a peaceful dispersal in the interest of avoiding any clashes. [passage omitted]

Government Communique Indicates Price Concession

LD2710222290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2100 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] [Announcer] I have just received a signal. Excuse me for interrupting, but I think we are going to hear important things. Here again is Balazs Laszlo, government spokesman, on the line:

[Laszlo] Good evening. This minute I have received from the government negotiating delegation a brief communiqiue, a brief summary, about the recently concluded discussions.

According to this, the government adheres strictly to the legal order, and expresses its intentions to hold discussions and come to an agreement. The government declares that it does not consider acceptable the unlawful demonstrations that have erupted in connection with the gasoline price increase.

It is submitting to the session of the Interest Coordination Council, which is to meet on Sunday—that is, tomorrow—a solution which, in addition to currently established consumer prices, will make possible, to a certain extent, the favorable purchase of fuel for Hungarian car owners. It sees a realistic possibililty for a 10-12 forint concession per liter, or for compensation within quantitataive frameworks to be determined in the course of expert discussions. A precondition for claim coordination of interests, however, is that the road blockades cease in the whole of the country.

[Announcer] A few minutes ago we heard this same statement from my colleague Jozsef Orosz, reporting from the Labor Ministry. The important thing, of course, is that it is better to get it twice and accurately, than once and inaccurately. My question is: Is this a communique or is it an agreement? Because judging by its content, from what I have heard here and now, it seemed at first—and now once again it seems—that it is simply a communique that lays down the present situation, the positions, the lines of force.

[Laszlo] Yes, that is precisely it. This is a communique, as it is very important that the quantitative framework for the certain concessional price gasoline purchases be taken by the government to the Interest Coordination Council, for shaping and for further discussions.

[Announcer] Then this communique is not sufficient for the blockades to be dismantled or for order to be finally restored in the country?

[Laszlo] I have no information about this. The government hopes, believes, and expects, too, of the car owners, the private haulers, that in token and confirmation of their willingness for approval—at least in Budapest—they show signs of lifting the blockades, the road blocks, and as the communique notes the road blockades must be ended in the whole country.

[Announcer] Thank you very much for the information.

Leaflets Call For 26 Oct Strike in Budapest

LD2710120390 Budapest MTI in English 1021 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—Late Friday afternoon leaflets appeared at several places in Budapest, calling upon "the workers of Hungarian factories, companies and institutions to launch a general strike on

October 26 until the government withdraws the petrol price [word indistinct]. [no closing quotes as received]

Although the leaflets were signed by the "Demonstrators before the house of parliament", observers doubted that the leaflets originated from the demonstrators whose representatives stressed repeatedly that they did not want to further increase tension.

Budapest Mayor-Designate Appeals to Districts

LD2710200990 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Appeal by Budapest Mayor-Designate Gabor Demszky to the "self-governments" and mayors on the transportation strike; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] I wish to address an appeal to the district self-governments. In the past few days, these newly-formed district self-governments have had to begin their operation in a very tense political crisis situation. They must stand their ground—as indeed they have done—and they must guarantee the operation of basic services, thereby reducing the difficulties afflicting the population in the areas of transport, public utility services, public supply, and health. They will be capable of doing this only if they concentrate exclusively on the performance of practical tasks and keep away from political debates.

I ask the mayors and representative bodies of the districts not to make political statements, to make no qualifying statements about the government's steps or about the demonstrators' demands. On the other hand, they should try to find accommodation for people stuck on the roads, and to guarantee the unimpeded functioning of the hospitals and the supply of commercial units with basic foodstuffs.

Furthermore, I ask the districts to establish and maintain continuous contact with the organizers of the road blockades that have been set up in their territory. They should strive to reach an agreement with them, and persuade them to allow foreign citizens and vehicles transporting children to pass through. They should ask them to see to the transport of doctors and health workers.

The self-governments should establish relations with the district police headquarters as well, and they should offer assistance in settling the conflicts arising around the blockades.

I ask the districts not to deal with issues beyond the sphere of influence and the competence of the self-government.

Finally, I would like to thank the Budapest chief of police and his staff, as well as every police officer, for the efforts they have made to peacefully settle the political conflict.

Government Attempts Removal of Foreign Tourists

LD2710195190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Geza Jeszenszky has received the ambassadors of the 34 CSCE countries to Budapest, and informed them about the situation. The minister especially singled out that the government is trying to create the means for the return home of foreign tourists staying in Hungary as soon as possible.

Government Wants Foreigners Allowed To Leave

LD2710231190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2100 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] In an appeal, the Foreign Ministry emphatically requests that all participants in the demonstrations against the fuel price increase make it possible without delay for the foreigners stuck in our country to leave the country unimpeded. To this end, they should let foreign vehicles bearing foreign license plates and heading toward the border crossings carry on beyond the road blockades. The appeal stresses that guaranteeing the free departure of foreigners could greatly assist our retaining a favorable judgement of Hungary.

Strikers Lift Blockade on SFRY Border

LD2710115990 Budapest MTI in English 1010 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 26 (MTI)—On Friday evening, the local taxi drivers of Barcs, southern Hungary, lifted the blockade they had imposed on the Hungarian-Yugoslav border crossing point earlier.

Notes Exchanged With Austria on Border Blockade

LD2710123990 Budapest MTI in English 1030 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 27 (MTI)—The Government of the Republic of Austria addressed a verbal note to the Hungarian Government on Friday night, the press office of the prime minister's office told MTI. According to the note, "The government of the Republic of Austria expects the Hungarian Government to take measures that guarantee the free return of Austrian citizens to their country."

The Hungarian Foreign Ministry added the following remarks to the note: "It is our vital interest to preserve friendly relations with our Austrian neighbours who are the most directly affected by the blockade. The blockade imposed on the border-crossing points and the access roads hit hard several citizens of other countries, too. This situation gravely endangers the international prestige and even the international obligations of the Republic of Hungary, and cannot be understood from humanitarian aspect either. We ask our compatriots to lift the blockade of all border-crossing points."

Austria Ready To Help With Oil Shipments

LD2710190490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1400 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Austria is ready to help Hungary with immediate crude oil deliveries. Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said on Vienna Radio that his government has assigned the Austrian crude oil selling company to deliver several thousand tonnes of fuel to the Hungarian border as a standby. The chancellor repeated that they are starting special car-carrying trains to bring home the Austrian drivers and their cars who are stuck in Hungary.

The Austrian head of government, by the way, spoke about the internal situation in Hungary with understanding. He added, however, that the internal political problems which have now become obvious must be solved by the Hungarian politicians themselves.

MDF Criticizes Goncz Statement on Strike

LD2810085990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] According to the parliamentary wing of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, Republic President Arpad Goncz exceeded his authority by his statement on Friday evening because he identified himself with the blockade and took the side of the demonstrators. The group of deputies do not agree with this and on Monday it is likely that they will express their view at the parliamentary session.

Denes Csengey stated that agreement between the taxi drivers and government representatives, near conclusion, has been prevented in the final analysis by the presidential statement on Friday.

Criticizes Price Increases, Protests

LD2810191690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The unprofessional preparation of the fuel price decree and the provision of information regarding this have been criticzed at a meeting of the parliamentary faction of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF]. At the same time, the MDF faction emphasized that the form of protest in which disagreement with the raising of fuel prices was expressed was unacceptable.

Blockade Eases in Budapest 28 Oct

LD2810091290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Excerpts] In the wake of the call of the National Police Commander, the crisis crew of taxi drivers, and VOP [National Party of Entrepreneurs], the blockade is easing in Budapest. The representatives of long-haul drivers have asked for the removal of barricades because they believe that in some way the government's unilateral compromise offer, in essence that the gasoline price hike would remain but motorists would be able to buy a certain amount at 10-12 forints cheaper, must be reciprocated.

Therefore members of the negotiating delegation have initiated strikers opening roads, at least one lane, but that they should remain in place with their vehicles. Py the way, the crisis crew insists that the negotiations taking place this morning should be reported live by the mass communication organs directly from the Interest Coordination Council.

The VOP has published its stance because it would like to avoid the interest of entrepreneurs becoming cards in a political game. Since the organization considers the domestic political situation increasingly unpredictable and more and more hysterical, it wants its members and its sympathizers to make their just protest exclusively within the framework of the existing constitutional order. At the same time it proposes the immediate convening of a national roundtable to avoid a catastrophe.

There is no news of any clash with authorities anywhere. The National Police commander promised last night that for the time being no force will be used anywhere, but expressed the prospect that the police will use legal means against those who do not obey the call to immediately dismantling the blockade.

Traffic could resume in all roads—in one lane only—throughout Budapest and the situation has improved in most focal points too. [passage omitted]

MALEV [national airline], in accordance with the new timetable which came into effect today, intends to dispatch and receive all the scheduled planes. Now it is possible to approach Ferihegy Airport by the fast bus service or with the Red No. 93 bus. Taxis still do not go either to the airport.

Traffic has been resumed at every border, but not at every crossing point. It is possible to travel to Yugoslavia, Romania, and the Soviet Union without hitches, while it is best to avoid Vamosszabadi heading to Czechoslovakia because there a five kilometer-long backup of trucks are waiting to cross. [passage omitted]

Coordination Council Holds Emergency Meeting

LD2810103390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0900 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] In Budapest, the government will begin an emergency meeting at 1000 [0900 GMT]. (Geza Kovacs), employment secretary of the interest coordination council, informed Radio Danibius about this. As a result the session of the interest coordination council will begin around midday, instead of 1100 as originally scheduled.

If both parties involved consent, Hungarian Radio will broadcast live the session of the Interest Coordination Council on the Kossuth Radio FM.

The cab drivers' representatives are holding a meeting in Budapest to coordinate their position in the city. The haulers agree that they will not accept any partial measure by the government and that they will completely lift the traffic blockade only if petrol price reduction reaches at least 12 forints. By the way, the cab drivers accept the incorporation of the increased production costs in the price of fuel, but they consider the increase of consumer tax unjustified. The haulers emphasize that if they manage to come to an agreement with the government, then they will lift the blockade throughout the country within three hours.

Drivers' 'Illegal Threats' Rejected

LD2810105690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The interest coordinating consultation of the government and the taxi drivers will start within minutes. The cabinet, in a communique, takes exception to the fact that certain drivers are expecting the announcement by midday of a concrete agreement and that in the absence of that agreement they have indicated the introduction of various sanctions.

The government resolutely rejects every manifestation which tries to exert pressure by maintaining an atmosphere of illegal threats.

The talks of the interest coordination will be broadcast live by Hungarian Radio on the VHF of Kossuth Radio. Our editorial has been phoned by the government spokesman who asked us to announce that the government decisively wants a live broadcast of the plenary consultation of the interest coordination council while, at the same time, it rules out the broadcast by radio of the expert talks.

Gas Prices, Blockade Discussed

LD2810123890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1200 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The interest coordination council session has begun in Budapest between the representatives of the government, the employers, and the employees. The negotiation group of the cabinet is headed by Minister of Finance Ferenc Rabare, while Janos Palotas, chairman of National Association of Entrepreneurs, leads the employers' group and Pal Forgach, chairman of the Trade Union Roundtable, represents the roundtable.

The sides have emphasized that they have come to the table with the intention of agreement. As yet the employers and the employees sides insist that even the most expensive gasoline should not exceed 50 forints per liter and that the president of the Republic should exempt all participants of the blockade from the possible consequences of their action.

Bod Offers Price Increase Rationale

LD2810175190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1134 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Statement by Minister of Industry Peter Akos Bod at the National Interest Coordination Council session in Budapest—live]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Mr. Chairman, esteemed participants, if you do not think a group of experts is necessary, allow us to begin the substantive debate, since there has been mention of a proposal. Before outlining this, allow me to speak briefly on the situation and conditions leading up to this. [passage omitted]

In several speeches I have pointed out, and I quite clearly stated before and during election period, most recently in Miskolc that the energy situation is grave. It is grave in the country and it is grave throughout the world. All I have to do is mention the Gulf crisis, and that the price of oil has risen to unprecedented levels. Unfortunately I have to point out that the delivery capacity of our customary trade partners, primarily the Soviet Union, has decreased. Perhaps it is unnecessary here to seek political motives. Those who are familiar with the situation of the Soviet and Eastern European economies are well aware that it is a matter of a decrease not in willingness but instead in the capability to deliver.

For this reason, the Hungarian Government and the concerned enterprises have begun talks with the Soviet Union, with its various leadership levels, and enterprises, although I must say it is very difficult to find negotiating partners abroad. We have held talks with international financial organizations. Despite all the uncertainties, if the contractual frameworks expire on 1 January, we shall certainly switch over to hard currency accounting. We shall have to pay in dollars, and this will constitute, for the country, a payments burden [words indistinct] which is practically impossible without the support of the financial organizations, the World Bank, the IMF, and Western European organizations. It is also completely clear that the banks will only provide this support for an economic policy they feel is sensible and rational. Economic rationality also means that if energy prices go up in the world, the Hungarian economy must follow.

Otherwise, allow me to cite some figures, since it has been noted that Hungarian energy prices are unjustifiedly high, considering that cheap Soviet oil is coming in. It must be recognized that in the first half of this year, during the Nemeth government, around 200,000 tonnes, 208,000 tonnes, were procured with dollars. The price at that time, if I remember correctly, was about $25 per barrel. In the third quarter, it was also necessary to purchase 243,000 tonnes, at a lower price, however. The oil price was lower in the summer. In the fourth quarter, which we now face, purchases in dollars will by all means exceed expected ruble purchases, since the Soviets have reduced the quota. If they comply with this set amount, which I hope and assume they will, but even if they do not comply with it, most of the purchased oil will be paid for with dollars.

Otherwise, according to earlier price calculations, the price at which it will be purchased will be well above $30 per barrel. Accordingly, our calculations have been aimed at roughly this, since—and now I shall make a jump—behind the price increase announced on 26 October was the economic calculation that we would purchase it at $29 per barrel.

That, however, is only the price. There is another factor about which no one has voluntarily spoken. It is a factor of responsible government, and it is the situation of reserves. Hungary, as a matter of course, gets its oil

through pipelines, and Soviet delivery capability was known to falter. Sometimes it stopped for one day, sometimes for several days. Reliability was low. In Western Europe, where most countries have seaports and a unified system, there are oil reserves for 108-109 days, in tanks, and underground storage facilities. Hungarian oil reserves have never been this high. In recent weeks, these reserves have decreased to four or five days. Accordingly, in a country where, for example, there is considerable tourism—25 million tourists visited the country, they spent considerable sums on shopping, there is also shopping tourism; otherwise the Hungarian economy is energy- intensive anyway—this factor could have risked paralyzing the entire economy.

Just think, there are a good number of Eastern Europe countries where restrictions on gasoline, fuel, and electricity have paralyzed life. I am not saying this to suggest that we should be happy about our situation. All I am pointing out is that there are real dangers in this area.

This was the historical situation, if I can call it that, which forced the government to announce, after lengthy calculations, the price measure on 26 October. I must say, since everyone here is speaking of gasoline and oil, that the decision, effective 1 November, has considerable economic implications, since the government is compelled to raise the producer price of crude oil, the accounting price, by 90 percent, the producer price of coke by 10 to 25 percent, the producer price of heating oil and the price of natural gas for nondomestic purposes by 80 to 90 percent, and the price of electricity by 29 percent.

This puts the Hungarian economy, especially the energy-intensive branches of industry, in a very difficult situation. This package will have only one direct effect on the population. The average price increase for gasoline and oil will be 66 percent, which is supported by calculations based on $29 per barrel, as well as the tax revenues, since no doubt no one denies that there are considerable tax revenues on these items in every country. There is much scope for this in the Hungarian economy's current financial situation.

I will immediately add that there are very considerable price subsidies for the population. This year, the budget subsidy for district heating is 7 billion forints, that for solid fuels, coal, brickettes, firewood, is 13 billion, and there are subsidies for electricity and natural gas. In total, the overt subsidies, and those which are harder to account for owing to various ways of calculation, amount to about 36 billion (forints). To this will be added, in the rest of this year, more subsidies to the tune of two and a half billion, due to the current price increase, as the purchasing costs are increasing and the consumers price is not going up. [passage omitted]

Our proposal, which we told you about yesterday, is that the market price, which, irrespective of all the good intentions of government, exists as a category, well, we would like price liberalization to take place as soon as possible. This is prepared, since it is part of the government concept. At the latest, this will take place on 1 January, since the special situation in which we got cheap Soviet oil will cease to exist. [passage omitted]

Our concrete proposal is that the market price should remain. Hopefully, there will be no event in the world economy in the coming weeks or months which might make these just elaborated prices unrealistic. However, the population's endurance is finite, and that of the workers is finite. There are social policy considerations here, too. For this reason, we have worked out a proposal, and if there is detailed debate we shall submit it. This, to a limited extent, would enable Hungarians to buy at a discount. [passage omitted]

Roundtable Discusses Gas Price Issue

LD2810142590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Representatives of government as well as of employers and employees have been meeting since about mid-day. Janos Hollos reports from the scene:

[Hollos] The three-sided roundtable has virtually split into two camps. Government should relinquish the tax-boosting factor related to the increase in price of gasoline, that is, the portion of the price hike which improves the budget's position. This in practice means extra consumers' tax and also means a 12-forint cut in the gasoline price, in the full range, that is, extra gasoline would be 50 forints and other fuel types would be cheaper. This is insisted on by the employees and employers' side of the Interest Coordinating Council, thereby constituting a unified front against the government, and it appears they do not want to make any concessions. This would represent a 30-40 percent increase on the original price, and it would rule out the government's current basis of reference, that a purchasing fever would set in if prices were reduced.

In opposition to this, the representatives of the government are at present sticking to their position, that every Hungarian citizen should receive a certificate or coupon for, say 90 or 30 liters a month, for which they could purchase the stated amount of gasoline at a price about 12 forints lower. This would have the advantage that everyone could always buy gasoline at the price at which it is obtainable on the world market. In this manner it could be guaranteed that everyone is able to buy as much fuel as they want, and there is no need for rationing or restrictions. It would also be possible, however, to constantly compensate the Hungarian citizens' extra costs.

According to the employers the current Hungarian economy could not bear such a price rise. This is where we stand now and at the moment the positions are rigid; we do not know what will happen.

Government Position Criticized

LD2810155190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] We are again linking up with the scene of the coordinating discussions. Janos Hollos:

[Hollos] The session of the Interest Coordination Council has begun, and what is more, it did so with a speech of protest by Pal Forgach. The leader of the delegation of employees has decidedly rejected the moves of the demonstrators in exerting pressure on the consultation. In addition, they smashed up a cab that was parked (?here) and then went towards the Margaret Bridge, looking for confrontation with the cab drivers. After this Peter Akos Bod stood up and announced the government's stance: That is, tomorrow, prior to the agenda, he will submit to parliament the government's proposal, in view of the (?changing) situation.

After this Sandor Nagy rose to speak. He expressed his astonishment at the government's stance. At present Janos Palotas, leader of the employers' delegation, is speaking. He too is entirely amazed. He feels that the government did not sit down at the table for discussions today with a real negotiating intention.

Proposals, Counterproposals Submitted

LD2810175490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Discussions have been going on at the Labor Ministry between representatives of employers, employees, and the government for four hours now. We now hear Janos Halios on what has happened so far and the latest developments.

[Begin Hollas recording] Perhaps we have come closer to a solution. The government has adopted the argument of the employers' representatives that the key to the solution of the entire problem is the liberalization of the purchasing and prices of oil products. In practice, this would mean that gasoline would be removed from the sphere of products whose prices are centrally fixed. For this reason, the government's responsibility for gasoline prices would cease.

On the government's behalf, Industry and Commerce Minister Peter Akos Bod promised that, in view of the crisis, they would immediately begin the elaboration of the necessary draft bills, which they will submit to parliament within a few days, or within two weeks maximum, naturally with the request for urgent attention. In exchange, he asked that for those two weeks the present criticized price remain in place because the country has no stocks for the winter and it is feared that panic buying could begin.

The employers and employees did not accept this proposal. They said they do not understand why the government insists on the present prices for these two weeks.

At that point, Sandor Nagy, on behalf of the National Federation of Hungarian Trade Unions unexpectedly read out a draft agreement which had been drawn up spontaneously and which offers a compromise to this previous idea. The compromise is that the government should accept reducing prices by 12 forints. If panic buying begins, then the coordinating council will convene again and, perhaps with a rapid agreement, it will curb consumption.

This is where the second round of discussions ended. Finance Minister Rabar asked Sandor Nagy to give him a copy of the draft agreement. Together with the government, he went back for further expert discussions. [end recording] [passage omitted]

12-Forint Price Reduction Accepted

LD2810195190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1823 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Report by unidentified reporter from the National Interest Coordination Council talks between the government and striking transportation workers in Budapest—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The draft standpoint, which for now does not contain definitive data or definitive figures, still seems in essence to be the joint platform of the two sides. This is what it contains: The government, accepting what is contained in the joint proposal of the employers' and employees' organizations, agrees that the extent of the consumer tax contained in the increased fuel price should decrease by 12 forints, on average. In accordance with this, the following price situations will occur. Please note, and I cannot stress this enough, that this information is only in draft form at this time.

Based on the draft figures, 86-octane gasoline will cost 44 forints, 92-octane gasoline will cost 47 forints, and 98-octane will cost 50 forints per liter. Oil will be 33 to 36 forints, while unleaded gasoline will be 48 forints.

The maintenance of this lower price, coupled with an unchanged import situation and the development of stocks, could have as a consequence the quantitative limitation of fuel circulation, the extent and technique of which will have to be shaped within the framework of the Interest Coordination Council.

All three negotiating sides undertake—and, I repeat; this is on a draft, since government representatives are not present—but all three negotiating sides undertake, according to this draft, that in the interests of preparing for the above situation the expert discussions on this subject will start without delay.

What this means is that if, after all, quantitative curbs have to be introduced because, on account of the price reduction, stocks must be bought up, then expert discussions will be convened on this.

Beyond this and in harmony with the above, all three sides agree, according to the draft, that the liberalization

of the producer price of fuel, alongside a fixed amount of consumer tax, should take place within a short time. There is a hand-written supplement to this: They also agree that the issue should go before parliament after discussions within the system of interest coordination. This is important, because we heard this afternoon that the government wishes to submit these proposals to parliament tomorrow. What is more, they want to do so prior to the normal agenda. The two sides, in this communique, are saying that these issues should go before parliament only after expert discussions. In other words, the interest coordination council should see to it that this is adhered to. So far, as they have been saying all day long here, the government has not kept to this.

With regard to liberalization, we learned during the recess that with this liberalization the determination of prices would no longer be within the government's sphere; that is to say, the producer price would be the determining factor, and this could be complemented by parliament's decision about the extent of the tax. This would not be set in percentage form, so that the budget could get constant extra revenue, but this would be a fixed forint amount, as elsewhere in the world. [passage omitted]

Government Statement on Fuel Prices

LD2810210990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1825 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Statement by unidentified government spokesman at arrival of government delegation to coordinating committee talks with striking transport workers' representatives in Budapest—live]

[Text] We informed the government about the negotiations here, although our impression is that the proposal of the negotiation partners is not quite clear, nor fully prepared, and we did not feel the willingness to come to an agreement, though we made recommendations for technical work. We came here with the following declaration, in the knowledge that you did not discuss the merits of our previous proposal, and you did not regard the government reply to your proposal as a basis for discussions either.

I must state in advance that every decision which is made on the price of gasoline will have an impact on the budget as a whole, since we are talking about the reallocation of economic burdens, since higher gasoline prices have higher budget support [as heard] in thousands of places, such as support of rail tarrifs, supports for local transport, subsidies for the postal services, and other transport costs. In accordance with this, every change or increase will transfer burdens to a very wide circle of citizens. This you must realize, you who represent a significant part of the economic life, an important part of Hungarian society; but not the whole of it, of course. The pensioners are not here, the young are not here.

Before I present the government declaration, I need to say that we consulted the parliamentary faction of the strongest party emerging from the free elections, the MDF [Hungarian Democratic Forum] and our coalition partners, and the essence of this declaration is as follows:

After the dismantling of the barricades and roadblocks paralyzing the economic and social life of the country, from midnight on Monday [29 October] at the earliest, until midnight on Saturday [3 November], when our liberalization proposal is accepted by parliament, the proposal which is in the government program and for which the support was unanimous, the government will introduce for this period, on its own authority, a price reduction of 12 forints. The government proposes the introduction of a system of market prices based on the prevailing market prices and the tax element usual in Europe.

If parliament does not make this decision by midnight on Saturday, or we do not manage to bring forward the free pricing we are planning, in this case the price will be restored which, according to our best professional judgement, has been fixed with due consideration for the country's development possibilities and the needs of the economy. This, however, implies the need for reduced consumption. This we made clear already; this is not only a question of economics, not only a question of what the consumers can tolerate, what certain sectors can absorb, but also a question of the country's depleted stocks. Under such conditions, when there is also panic in the country, the gasoline pumps can be emptied. Therefore, an indispensable condition for the change to become operational at midnight on Monday is that the country becomes fully operational, the whole country and every part of it should become fully operational, and there is need for reduced consumption.

I am now, here, calling on all consumers, drivers if it is not necessary, do not fill up your tank; if you can postpone a trip, do so. Gasoline should only be put into gasoline tanks, not into containers. If it becomes necessary, after carrying out the relevant calculations, in light of the available stocks and depending on the support from international organizations, and the situation, which is changing from hour to hour, the government will decide on the necessary restrictions and controls. I think that parliament, the highest legislative forum, which you subjected, in my view unjustifiably, to much criticism, will find one week sufficient to make this decision and to close this very uncertain period, and to bring forward the necessary decision, which we always recommended, which would free petrol prices, and trust this to the market, as is customary in Europe, within the legitimite framework set by parliament.

If we do not complete the process this week, the earlier prices will be restored, since the economy will then have to carry a further burden, and these will be further negotiations and interest coordinations.

This is the declaration which the government is placing before you. There will be a parliamentary session

tomorrow afternoon; our experts must prepare the legislation; we personally must also take part in the work, so we can not attend a very long meeting here. I think tomorrow afternoon in parliament the political aspects of this question, the legal aspects, the evaluation of the situation, the motivation and responsibilities of those who took part in illegal activities will be placed before a very thorough parliamentary political debate. This solution will provide an opportunity to bring forward what we all wanted, for which we all voted, to allow this freeing of prices to take place, and indisputable market prices shall be established, in connection with which accusations against the government that they do not apply market prices will not occur.

I must of course point out that this will mean budget expenditure; it could prove a budgetary burden. We do not regard this as a valid solution even in the short or medium term, but because such enormous tensions have mounted in the country, the government is presenting this declaration to you in the interest of cooperation. Although we have the sympathy of a great many people, I must add, unlike many other participants, that the government does not regard this as a question of prestige. Because we thought, or we felt that you thought, there were substantial differences between the two proposals, we felt we could take your recommendations into account.

We call on the experts present to take part in Monday's preparatory work for parliament and get in contact with the our experts.

No Gas Shortages Expected

LD2910005190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2300 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Mineral Oils Commercial Enterprise has made preparations to carry out, within a short period, technical operations at the gasoline pumps in connection with the 12-forint price reduction. (Istvan Zengeller), managing director of the National Mineral Oil and Gas Industry Trust, said that the country presently has five to seven days' reserves of gasoline and heating fuel. He said that, beginning Saturday [27 October], gasoline delivery to the pumps has been continuous; thus, there is no need to expect shortages.

Police Not To Use Force Against Blockade

LD2810134190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] In a statement issued at midnight, the national police chief said that the police will use legal means to take action against those who make up the blockade if they do not begin to dismantle it. Later, in an interview given to "Napzarta" [Hungarian TV program] National Police Chief Gyozo Szabo emphasized that the police will not use force against participants in the demonstration. Attila (?Heltai) asked the national police chief which statement is correct at this moment.

[Begin recording] [Szabo] The further conduct of the police depends on the result of the coordinating talks.

[Heltai] What means are available?

[Szabo] Legal means, identity checks, writing down the registration numbers of the vehicles in the [words indistinct] the attempt to remove them. However, I emphasize that further measures depend on the results of the coordinating talks and the position and the decision of government.

[Heltai] Can we summarize the conversation by saying that the police will not use force against participants in the demonstration?

[Szabo] That is so. [end recording]

Confrontation Occurs Between Protestors 28 Oct

LD2810144990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1400 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] You will now hear a report on a demonstration in front of parliament building.

[Reporter] There was no cordon between us a few months ago on Heroes' Square, (?said) the first speaker in the pro-government sympathy demonstration on Kossuth Square. It is true, on both sides of the cordon dividing the square in half, 5,000 to 6,000 pro-government citizens and about 1,000 citizens supporting the blockade were glaring at each other. Car horns, shouts, and chanting choruses competed with one another. No one has the right to cut us off from our living and dead loved ones, the speaker continued. In the meantime, signs bearing the inscriptions "Fascism", "Marxism", "Taxi-ism", "Long live the government", and "There will be no coup" were raised in the air. The government, which appeared on the steps in nearly full numbers, was welcomed with loud cheers.

In a brief speech, Defense Minister Lajos Fur said that the government is in its place and unlawfulness will be eliminated. His words were interrupted by constant shouting. Lajos Fur then appealed to the participants to return home peacefully without conflict, avoiding those standing on the other side of the cordon.

Germany Considering Energy Assistance

LD2810181190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Germany is considering possible forms of assistance to Hungary. Gyoergy Bernath reports from Bonn.

[Bernath] The specifics of these will be discussed tomorrow in Budapest by German experts and their Hungarian partners. I did, however, manage to learn from various Bonn sources that the aim is not only to assist in resolving these urgent problems. The Germans believe there is need for more than ad hoc, so-called fire engine assistance. They intend that assistance from Germany or the European Community be incorporated in

short-term Hungarian economic plans. For this they need to know the intentions of the government, the aims of its economic policy, various measures, what resources are available and what are missing, and the cost of the Hungarian program.

Germany is keeping to the earlier promise of Chancellor Kohl, who said if there are serious problems with Hungarian energy supplies, as a result of cuts in Eastern European deliveries, Germany is ready to immediately step in to assist.

Three areas could be considered, or three and one half.

The first is oil. In the absence of pipelines, we can only obtain crude oil from Germany via rail freight, or gasoline by road in container trucks.

Negotiataions began earlier in case Poland could not fulfill its contractual obligations. In that case, Germany would be ready to deliver coal. This is the second area. So, Hungary would not remain without heating fuel for the winter.

The financial terms for all this have yet to be clarified. A special financial deal can be envisaged within which Hungary could obtain energy carriers. This is the third option.

And, the half is electricity. The Germans can not do much here since the Hungarian electrical grid does not have the appropriate links with the Western one. But to remedy this speedily is only a question of money, because the mutual intentions are there.

Government Urges Care for 'Democratic Order'

LD2810163390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The government is calling on citizens to maintain their dignity and take care of the democratic order. At the same time they should refrain from using methods such as those being employed by those who are disrupting the legal order.

Railroad Trade Union Stance on Gas Prices

LD2810163890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Railway Workers Trade Union understands the government's intention to keep the country's fuel stocks in reserve. At the same time, the railway workers reject the method and extent of the gasoline price increase and are in solidarity with the demonstrations serving the assertion of the just interests of the population.

Cab Drivers Urged To Be Sober, Responsible

LD2810163690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] In the capital, the haulers have not altered their decision of last night and are not going to shut down the Budapest main intersection points even now. This information was given by the Budapest cab drivers' crisis team. They indicated, however, that their vehicles will remain everywhere in readiness and their further attitude will depend on the success of the work of the interest coordinating council. At the same time they call on all their cab driver colleagues to maintain a sober and responsible attitude.

Employers' Leader Criticizes Lack of Protection

LD2810172990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1605 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Comments by Janos Palotas, leader of the employers' delegation, in Budapest—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Palotas] We have now received information that as a result of the call on the radio for a gathering of government sympathizers, there is a crowd of several thousand demonstrating in Budapest. The crowd started to march to those junctions where the taxi drivers and haulers involved in the protest action stand. The latter have withstood every provocation for days. When they requested help via radio from the Budapest police commander, the answer came that the police cannot protect the participants of peaceful protests, who presently are not even creating an obstruction on the roads. They were told to go home very quickly because that is the only guarantee for them.

I consider it inconceivable that the government can not quickly make the decision that the sympathizer demonstrators called together in its support, called together by the government itself, to guarantee the same peceful presence both in Budapest and in the provinces where the protesters have demonstrated for days.

At the same time, I ask—and I do this for myself and not in my capacity as spokesman—Minister of the Interior Balazs Horvath to protect all those citizens and protesters in peaceful way who are on the streets today. He cannot say that he cannot provide protection for them and therefore they should leave the streets in short order.

Interior Minister Calls For Observance of Law

LD2810173290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Interior Minister Balazs Horvath addressed an appeal to the demonstrators and everyone. Let us listen:

[Begin Horvath recording] I am calling on the citizens of the country and, among them, the citizens of Budapest to honor the laws, honor each other, and honor order in today's tense situation.

The Hungarian police will use every possible means to prevent civil disturbances for whatever motives, and the occurrance of attrocities. Therefore, we are calling on the citizens to express their feelings peacefully and with the full observance of the law. [end recording]

MSZP Blames Situation on Improper Social Control

LD2810182390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] held a press conference this afternoon. (Laszlo Hulicska) reports:

[Begin (Hulicska) recording] The MSZP is the only one of the opposition parties which has not demanded the government's resignation. That is how party chairman Gyula Horn summed up the events of the last few days. In the stance which they present now, this is the only cardinal issue which diverges from the opposition parties' statements issued so far. The socialists agree with the statement of Republic President Arpad Goncz. In their opinion, the solution to the problem, which has by now broadened into a political one, must be the task of the National Assembly session that is to convene tomorrow. They also said that one of the main causes of the situation that has evolved is that the government measure was been preceded by discussions and coordination. According to them, the main lesson is that social control and the institutional forms of dialogue are still not functioning satisfactorily. [end recording]

Defense Spokesman Says Army Quiet 28 Oct

LD2810183490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] A Ministry of Defense spokesman said that the barracks are quiet and the soldiers are carrying out their usual daily duties. Colonel Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman for the ministry, said the Army has so far provided help amounting to 2.3 million forints in the transport of food and the provision of fuel.

The soldiers were not subjected to insults anywhere.

Gyorgy Keleti also said that, in spite of the difficulties, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from our country continues according to plans.

Blockades Removed; Border Posts Reopened

LD2910001290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2300 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] MTI reports the taxi drivers' blockade has ended natonwide.

The haulers have dismantled the blockades, and the taxi drivers in the capital are accepting calls now.

All the border crossing stations have also reopened.

Blockade 'Actually' Lifted 28 Oct

LD2910112590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0500 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The Hungarian gasoline blockade, which lasted for 72 hours and threatened with an explosion, was actually lifted on Sunday night.

The session of the Interest Coordination Council, broadcast by Hungarian Television, ended with the sides concluding an agreement, summing up the achievements of the series of talks. On behalf of the government, the agreement was signed by Peter Akos Bod, minister of industry and trade, on behalf of the employees by Pal Forgacs, president of the Trade Union Roundtable, and on behalf of the employers by Janos Palotas, president of the National Federation of Entrepreneurs.

The text of the agreement:

1. The fuel prices increased on 26 October, 1990, will be reduced by a uniform 12 forints at 2400 on 29 October. Accordingly, the following prices will take effect [in forint/litre]:

- 86-octane petrol: 44,
- 92-octane petrol: 47,
- 98-octane petrol: 50,
- 95-octane unleaded petrol: 49,
- normal diesel oil: 30,
- winter diesel oil: 33,

It is a condition for the new prices to take effect that the removal of road blocks starts immediately and ends by 0430 on 29 October throughout the country, including the border-crossing points.

2. The producer prices of fuel, including a fixed amount of excise tax, should be liberalized as soon as possible. To this effect, the Interest Coordination Council asks Parliament to enact the related laws within the shortest possible time. The interest Coordination Council will be taking part in codification. The representative organizations support and promote the government's endeavour that these laws be enacted by November 6, 1990.

3. The new fuel prices will remain in effect until the laws on liberalization are enacted. During this period, the filling stations are only allowed to fill fuel tanks with fuel.

4. Should it become necessary during the period of transition to limit consumption beside unchanged imports, the extent and method of limitation will be specified with the involvement of the Interest Coordination Council.

Work, Transport Resume Nationwide

LD2910092590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0900 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Production and work are underway at the factories, enterprises, and shops nationwide, with a complete

workforce everywhere. Transport is unimpeded. There is gasoline at all the pumps, with the exception of a few gasoline stations in western Hungary, where in places it is difficult to acquire unleaded gasoline. There is enough of all other kinds everywhere.

Those who were protesting against the gasoline price increase lifted the road blockades in the wake of last night's agreement by the Interest Coordination Council. In the terms of the agreement, beginning midnight today one liter of fuel will cost 12 forints less compared to last week's increased price. This measure will remain in force until Parliament adopts the bill on price liberalization, which the National Assembly will discuss at its session beginning at 1500 this afternoon, in a debate expected to last several days.

Antall Interviewed From Hospital on Situation

LD2910023190 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 2204 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall conducted by reporters (Peter Feledi) and (Laszlo Hadhazi) from Antall's hospital room on 28 October—recorded]

[Text] After the communique came into being [on the agreement between the government and haulers] we went to see Jozsef Antall in the hospital. The interview was conducted by (Peter Feledi) and (Laszlo Hadhazi). Our colleagues have just returned to the studio.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, we are talking in a doubly extraordinary situation. Let us begin by saying that it is not often that a prime minister grants an interview in his pajamas.

[Antall] Yes, well, today they wanted to make a program with me in my slippers, but I was not willing. I did not want to do that. I think that a politician, as everyone, has private affairs. I would like to include illness among private affairs. This is rare for me, because I have not been on sick leave for decades. Since I completed my university education, I have rarely been ill, but this is about due now. Unfortunately, they had to remove a lymph node, the examination of which is under way.

It was fairly painful, but I could not postpone the trips that had been prepared. I had to carry on to the end of the last election period. When I spoke at the elections—at the local authority elections—this already afflicted me. On my trips to Britain and Holland, it affected me; it also affected me on the day of the election, and in the United States. Because the agenda of the U.S. trip included an official reception with President Bush, whose every quarter hour is determined in advance, it was not possible to modify it; it had to be carried through. What I decided was that on 23 October I would deliver the parliament speech, take part in the wreath-laying, and even deliver the speech in the Sports Hall, but after that, I had to go into the hospital. The next day they operated on me. Yesterday they took out the tubes here, with fairly long incisions —the breadth of two hands. Now the scar will start to heal. There is still an examination to come, and I hope that shortly after chemotherapy—according to medical opinion—it will not impede me in any way, and that I will fully regain my physical condition. I think that I have been in good condition until now, as well as during the last few weeks. Actually, I noticed this node during the government's formation, but I did not have time to deal with it.

[Reporter] After you entered the hospital, what opportunity, what means, what possibility, and what inclination did you have for taking part in governmental work?

[Antall] Well, I did what I was able to do, of course; one of the important things is that the government members worked tirelessly. It is superhuman what they did, just like the entire Hungarian society, as it lived through this crisis. I admit that, to me, it was as if I was in a lion's cage in this small room. Prior to this, in the intensive care unit where I had to go, and when I came to after the anaesthetic, this was immediately what crossed my mind as soon as I was informed about the events. I, however, simply did not have the ability to do anything more. What I was able to do, once I moved from the intensive care unit to this room, was to make contact with the world via the telephone. Interior Minister Balazs Horvath, who was standing in for me, also mentioned that they were in contact with me. This is the truth. They informed me about every issue; they sought my opinion. Of course, it is only together with the government members that I represent government responsibility, and it is on them that the real responsibility lies. In fact, therefore, I assisted my own government to carry out matters.

[Reporter] So we can say that the agreement that has come into being today has, in fact, come into being on its final form entirely with your knowledge and agreement?

[Antall] Well, I have to say that I undertook the agreement. I accept responsibility for the fact that it has been concluded. I cannot really say that, because I was not there at every stage of the discussions—and discussions necessitate that and offer a possibility for the negotiating sides, at times, to go further by a few steps than what was perhaps agreed on in advance. This, however, is another issue. What one can say here is that those negotiating as the government's representatives have negotiated something, have taken a stance on something, and they coordinated with me on the individual agreement points in the main issues. Because the agreement still has to be signed....

[Reporter, interrupting] For this reason, allow me to say that it is five to 10, five to 10 at night [2055 GMT] when this conversation is being recorded.

[Antall] All I can say is that I have to identify with what I know of the agreement so far, because my government

has made it, and I identify myself with my staff members, even if it did not happen with my knowledge in all its details or in all its points and its construction.

[Reporter] How do you evaluate this agreement, which diverges from the government's original plan?

[Antall] Well, this is not such a simple issue. I would like to allude to two more things here, about what I did in the meantime. One is that the government's standpoint about the agreement—as much as I know about it, as I have not yet read the text of what they agreed, only as much as I have been informed about—was, and has always been, that the energy supply in Hungary—and we repeated this ad nauseam at the elections as well—the energy issue is a key one for Hungary.

Hungary is an energy-wasting country, which always accompanies out-of-date technology and out-of-date car stocks. Our opportunities for getting supplies are poor. It is well known that since August the Soviet Union has not delivered gasoline and that prices on the world market have risen because of the Gulf crisis. In the field of energy, therefore, a crisis situation did occur. During my visit to Paris, I said to Prime Minister Rocard that we have enough gasoline reserves to last nine days. He threw up his hands and asked if he had understood properly. He asked his associates, and said that in Western European countries it could not be less than 100 to 110 days' supply. This was repeated by every politician I talked to, and it was almost incredible to them that the countries of Eastern Europe live and function in this way, that they only have eight to nine days worth of reserves.

Our reserves had gone down to three to four days worth when this crisis situation arose, so we had to make a decision on this. We can dispute whether the government made the right decision, or presented it in the right way. It is certain that the government could have made mistakes—nobody disputes this—and we can safely say this, but whether we made smaller or bigger mistakes is a matter of opinion.

On one side is the fact that mistakes can be made by not adequately preparing society for this. I have to tell you that I talked about a very serious situation before the local elections. I talked about the serious position of the country, the serious economic situation, in my television speech which did not get transmitted because of the equal time considerations. I considered this a closed matter, but in this the government must be neutral and the coordinators as well.

[Announcer] Dear viewer, the first cassette has ended. We are presenting the recording without cuts, and, as you may have heard (Peter Feledi) mention during the recording, he visited the head of government at 2200. I think my colleagues put the second cassette in the recorder. Let the interview continue.

[Antall] [First part of sentence missing]...could have immediately suspended the sale of gasoline at the pumps, could have said only ambulances and fire services will be served for an indefinite period, until an agreement is reached. We did not choose this option, but the sudden one. Unfortunately, this was certainly a mistake. My illness contributed to this. On the 24th I was undergoing surgery and was under sedation. Perhaps it would not have made a change in the announcement of this, nor would it have been welcomed with pleasure or avoided creating a shock if it took place with more explanation. It, however, should have been with greater and wider announcement; this announcement could have been done better—in my opinion—and have had a greater impact. This is one point. The economic justification was there for not doing this, and for doing what should have been done. As the statements from political parties indicate, there was not and is not a single political party which would responsibly declare that there are doubts about the necessity of raising prices, and that the prices must be in line with the world market, which has a certain tax aspect. This can be debated later. From this it follows that if someone thinks this through, it is not possible that in Hungary, on such questions of transformation, such a strategic paralysis should take place as is presently happening in the country. This brought social and political tensions to the surface, tensions which were not new, but had been gathering for some time.

[Reporter] Do you not think this is also because the majority of the population does not have a real sense of danger—the sense of danger of how catastrophic the economic situation of the country is?

[Antall] I do agree with this. We tried to explain this. Anybody who really reads the government program can read that we described the dangers; we did say during the spring election how serious the situation of the country is. We said it was possible to get out of this serious situation. We must not forget that we are a bitter people, prone to pessimism, all of us, and if we have no faith in getting out of the situation and no strength to do so, than we can not do it. There is another thing, too: The Poles have been putting up with a more serious situation for years now. We can even say that is true of some other countries as well. In Hungary, part of the truth is that Hungary should have taken this step in 1973, but it did not do so. It handled it with debts and loans—I also said this during the elections—but the loans were not simply used by the previous governments or were used for luxury or such, and the country lived it up.

We must accept that our debt of $20 to 21 billion, together with the interest, had been created, because in reality there was full employment when we placed people into nonproductive jobs where only individual people did work, and this returned again into the society. In plain language, the country lived during the past decades in such a way that it did not produce what it distributed to society, but covered it from borrowing. This gave to people in Hungary during the past period a certain sense of security, even if on a very simple level, but people still felt it. Their aim might have been a Trabant or a Zsiguli [inexpensive cars], which, after a while, they could

achieve. An apartment would have been very difficult to manage to get, but perhaps not a small plot which they could cultivate on weekends. From time to time they could go on a trip abroad. During such trips, they had relatively good feeling, if they compared themselves wih the East Germans, that they were, at least, relatively freer, more free than the Czechs, more free and living better than the Romanians or better than the Poles. Society felt during the past period that it lived in a party state, but following the reprisals after 1956, it lived a life in which it did not feel it lived better than what the Hungarian economy could afford. This was a consequence of a mistaken economic policy—mistaken for decades—and because of borrowing. It is dreadful to say this, since we did not live well. This has ended. After the Vietnam war it was it was not difficut to obtain money on the money market. The West gave loans to the countries of East Europe. They partly tied down the money with this, using this opportunity. It was the same after the World War II. After the war, money becomes available, money becomes cheap. This period was used by previous governments to keep people here under better conditions compared to other so-called people's democracies. This had ended. For years in this country they were talking about a crisis. Certain people, in addition to their usual occupations, had income opportunities on weekends and so on, such as moonlighting or second and third jobs. They could live a bit better. This has ended too. A world collapsed; this system collapsed. We must accept that it did so. It is not our government. The change of systems came about in Eastern and Central Europe because because this whole communist political economic situation collapsed.

[Reporter] Can we word it in such a way as to say that the most fundamental line in the change of systems is the change of the economic system but another factor is the human factor? People must also be reprogrammed.

[Antall] This is what is at issue. People did not believe, do not believe it. They think this was said to them all the time. Janos Kadar also said they did not work enough. I always say people did work; they worked, if not in their main job, then in their second or third jobs. These times are over, but people did not sense this. They believe the government is managing the economy badly. First of all, the point now is not that the government is holding out. There are no fixed prices; these were minimized; there were liberalized free imports. I could list what happened. Excuse me. [takes a drink] A new situation arose here, and in this new situation, the tension gathered. This tension peaked in the present conflict. I do not think that I should pass judgement on groups or parties or occupational groups; this is not my job now. What I can say is that from what had happened, society and everyone must draw the conclusions. Parliament must draw the conclusions; the government must do so; the interest representatives and interest coordination organizations must draw the conclusions. It it now what was talked about so often has begun to work in Hungary. The trade unions, the employers—what in a pluralist society must be established—the interest representatives of employers, state or private, and employees have gotten together. Sitting next to each other are the trade unions, the independent league, the workers councils, and the successors of the old trade unions. There is everyone from Pal Forgacs to Csaba Keri and through to the representatives of the workers councils such as Vajtai and Sandor Nagy. This has now been established in Hungary. This is one of the results, the consequences in Hungary there is now a clear picture. There is an organization of employees. Now we must know that there are the employees. Among themelves they know that on the other side the employers are established, and together they can sit in the economic chamber, which they visited once. The government must aim at becoming a third negotiating partner. The main thing will be when they are facing each other, the employers and employees; the government will be neutral and the arbitrator.

[Reporter] Allow me to return to today's agreement. How do you assess this, and how do you evaluate in this context the role of parliament, which will reconvene tomorrow?

[Antall] I think nobody has been the winner here or a loser. Anyone who wishes to triumph here, what kind of victory has he won. Who can say that he has defeated the others? That would be a serious mistake. This is not what has been the issue here. What the question has been is that it is a basic aim of the government, as has been said already, to assimilate the oil prices to the world market because the budget can not finance this. This means that prices can increase or they can fall. One day they thought it started to go down, but we know it went up again within days. If a war breaks out in the Gulf, presumably prices will go up. We therefore simply had the aim of making the prices of gasoline and oil free, which would be in line with world market. Beginning 1 January we can only purchase oil for dollars, even from the Soviet Union. We therefore intended to aim for 1 January. We thought the Soviet Union would be delivering until then, so we could wait until then to change over to world-market pricing. The Soviet Union has not delivered since August, so we had to start receiving deliveries from elsewhere and had to keep it continuous, as I said. From this it follows that price liberalization and the fact that world market prices will prevail. If the Soviet Union delivers a large quantity on favorable terms, this will obviously be taken into consideration. Nobody will pocket it, so in this case prices will fall. Simply, the government agrees with this decision. This was the original intention of the government regarding prices. We intended to do it from 1 January, but this became the main determinant. Since the other two partners took over this and accepted this, from now on we must agree with this. I personally gave instructions during the negotiations that they should accept this proposal of the other two partners and that we should agree with this. This is a step which will eliminate the suspicion that the government wishes to make decisions about this according

to its own wishes in the future. This is fully in line with the original intention of the government, and we have to be very pleased that the other two partners realized this. Bringing it forward, they have abandoned their original position that price increases should not take place on this basis. This is the essence; this is the strategy; government and parliament must agree with this. The other point is that a crisis had to be dealt with and solved. There is obviously also a tax content regarding gasoline, both in the world and in Europe, which we also have to comply with, because Hungarian citizens cannot be asked to pay for the visitors from Austria, Yugoslavia or neighboring countries who come over and obtain cheaper gasoline at a cost to the Hungarian budget. We must ensure high prices and taxes as well. One solution would have been what we recommended. This would also have in the interests of the Hungarian citizens. That is the coupon system. It is true it is a complicated administrative system, but we did not intend to retain it for the long term.

On the other hand, parliament must accept, as a matter of urgency, that we have already issued a statement agreeing with the coalition partners. Parliamentary work must be modified, because it is impossible that parliament will not work so hard to make a decision. They already worked hard in the comnmittees, and I hope that after two elections, referenda, etc., the parliament session will end with a forum. They must become a hard-working parliament which will work not for two days, but Saturday or Sunday if necessary, even at night. I was at the U.S. Congress. They were there at night as well. I was at the German parliament as well. We now must legislate; this must be done. This new bill must be accepted this week, perhaps at the beginning of next week, but as soon as possible, because the government cannot sustain the budget.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, there have been certain reports that leading Western statesmen have offered the country assistance in various forms. What can you say about this?

[Antall] What I can say regarding this is that I was not inactive in this room. I was unable to intervene in the negotiations, because such a thing was impossible. I value much more highly my fellow politicians and the members of my government. As I said, I was their colleague with whom they discussed things and I was in constant telephone contact with them. I told them my opinion, my information, but they who were there were the ones who had to make the decisions.

In the country's interest and in the interest of the crisis, what I was able to do was to take advantage of the opportunity that the news spread and reached the ears of Western leaders to whom I am attached by ties of personal friendship. I can safely say this. Independent of the crisis, I received separate letters and telegrams containing best wishes and greetings from the French prime minister, and from many more I could list, but this is not interesting.

Seizing this opportunity, I entered into telephone contact with everyone with whom this was possible. I spoke personally with Chancellor Kohl yesterday as he was leaving for the airport to go to Rome. Chancellor Kohl gave me assurances when I explained the crisis situation to him, and on Monday [29 October] people will come from several German ministries aboard a special airplane. Anyway, it was high time to clarify the German-Hungarian economic problems. We separately discussed this. However, in the case of the Germans, the sorting out of the East Germans ties down their energy to such an extent that they have to pay great attention to that. Chancellor Kohl immediately understood that very urgent measures were necessary here. He said that he would immediately send here a government delegation, and that we would, parallel to this, make a review. I issued a measure yesterday that the immediate provision of assistance in German-Hungarian economic relations should be worked out. I can also say similar things regarding the other prime ministers. I can say that yesterday, in Rome, when the summit of the prime ministers of the European Common Market opened, a proposal was made. Throughout, I was in contact with Brussels, and I was in contact with the governments concerned. I am pleased that I can say this on television, that the Rome summit passed a resolution entitled Urgent Assistance, which says: From among the manifold and urgent problems which affect Central and Eastern Europe, the Council of the European Community was sought out by the Hungarian Government—that is, myself—and expresses its solidarity for the country's efforts, that it should resolve its grave economic problems, and that it should assist its development toward a market economy. It affirms its resolve that it will resolutely support Hungary on the path which leads towards democracy, stability, and economic development, which rejects all force, and which presupposes a respect for the law. In this connection, the European Community and its member states—that is very essential, the individual countries, as well—will help Hungary to bridge its problems, especially in the sphere of energy provisions. Separately, in the framework of the Group of 24, efforts will also be made to make bilateral assistance available within the shortest possible time, primarily making available the second part of the commmunity assistance.

This means that, hopefully, we can bring forward a sum equivalent to approximately $350 to $400 million, which would have been scheduled for next year. This, too, has contributed to my taking the position that it was possible to responsibly facilitate the bridging of this. The opinion of the National Bank, the opinion of everyone, is that solvency must be maintained. This would be in vain, if inflation ran loose, so this was necessary for us to be able to take these measures. This international solidarity, this international assistance, was what I was able to arrange from here, and which contributed to the government's being able to assent to this compromise, because otherwise the government would have ended up financially in an untenable situation.

This is extremely important, and I trust that this was understood. I want to say that—in the past, not now but one year ago, when I was able to speak to the parliamentary faction of the People's Party Christian Democratic political group of the European Parliament—I told Mr. Delors and every prime minister, including President Bush, that Eastern and Central European changes could not be compared to how the Western world is handled, nor to the Third World. I told them that if the social tensions of these areas were not alleviated, and if assistance was not provided for us for this, there would be no economic genius who would be able to carry out the transition to the market economy, because this would not be endured and would not be understood.

For this reason, I ask Hungarian society to believe this. Up to now we have always spoken directly and sincerely, but not without belief. We did indeed say that the country was in a catrastrophic condition; contributing to our catastrophic situation were the events during the summer. Regarding this, further developments could not be known, such as the situation further deteriorating in the USSR. The Soviet Union ended up in such a grave situation that it was compelled to surrender East Germany and was compelled to make concessions on the scale it made, because it ended up in such a catastrophic situation. This is not how it was in the summer or autumn of last year, or even in the spring. Thus, we had to do this. To add to these circumstances, we had the drought and the Gulf crisis. These are real problems. I believe that the main result of this—from which everyone must draw lessons—is that parliament must be a working parliament. Every political party must be responsible and must feel what this means. Government must draw its lessons in government work, in cooperation and sympathy with the Hungarian people. My personal conviction is this. In many of my works I have quoted Jozsef Eoetvoes [a 19th century writer], that there are no peoples who are diplomats; but the Magyar people are least so, and it is necessary to tell them what we want of them. This is a long-standing truth.

I believe that it is necessary to make improvements in this sphere, and in this I ask for the help and support of television and the press. I ask that they understand that we are only able to do this together. The big lesson from this crisis perhaps could be that this current tension made the Magyar people recognize—those who are passive and those who think differently—that a real collapse could take place here. There could be no electricity; we could have no energy resources whatsoever; and then inflation could run loose. Anything could happen if we did not carry on in a disciplined manner.

Now, the self-government elections have been held. I will not lie—naturally I would have been more pleased if our parties had won the self-government elections—but from a certain viewpoint I am not upset that this is now how it happened, because the situation now is that there is a government coalition which must cooperate in parliament, a working parliament, with an opposition, and I mean all of the opposition. Apart from this, there will be self-government where the self-governments must locally assume responsibility. The country must learn that the government is no longer one government which exercises all of the power. However, government is only able to carry out leadership at a government level, in a manner so that there must be cooperation between parliament, government, the interest protection organizations, and the employers. We finally see that those who up to now opposed one another now sit together. Now no one queries the legitimacy of the employers, no asks what is the economic chamber, which is something that was done earlier. No one asks what is the national association of entrepreneurs. This association has not queried what the Economic Chamber or other groups are. The trade unions have not queried one another. I am pleased about this.

Now there is a clear negotiating partner. This has now emerged. Only in this way can we hold discussions. There will be self-government, and in the self-government there will be the same parties which sit as opposition parties in parliament.

This, therefore, is a new task before the country. If, in this new constitution, we perform our work with a sober mind and good intent, and with responsibility, what is more with complete national responsibility, then it is possible that this crisis which has now occurred will yet turn to the country's benefit. But this requires that we maintain constitutional order and that everyone respects the constitution. In accordance with this, according to the agreement, everyone must go home—the taxi drivers too, the haulers too, the truck drivers too. This agreement can only come into effect if all this happens by the time of the agreement.

Naturally, we, the government, will not initiative any kind of procedure against the participants of this civil movement, or, if you like, movement of civil disobedience. The government will take no initiative; the government can state this without any qualms. Naturally, this does not apply if a person smashes up cars or commits an outrage. That is something else. But the government can state, with regard to the political movement itself, that it will not do anything. That much is in our interests.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, I think, or I hope, that in these hours, these minutes, the obstacles are being removed on the roads and everybody is going home peacefully. What do you think: Those obstacles that have arisen in recent times between the government and its electors and the masses, how can they be stopped? In other words, how can the government's capital of confidence grow before the masses? Is there any hope for this?

[Antall] Well, first of all, what has to be said—and I will only allude to this—is that, in fact, in Hungary, at the spring elections too, the mass of passive voters, of the more passive people, was bigger than in other countries. This in itself is already a consequence of the decades, of the phenomena I have mentioned, of the fact that the Kadar era, with a sort of depoliticization, stabilized the

country in its own way. The Kadarist consolidation was based on the people getting a minuimum of concessions in relative freedom compared to other communist countries, a financial average vis-a-vis the other communist countries. This, in fact, meant a certain political depoliticization. Anyone who did not want to politicize did not have to; what is more, they were happy if he did not.

The compulsory politicisation of the Rakosi era had ended. Hungarian society had gotten used to this. For this reason, it simply switched off. This is not identical with the political apathy of the welfare societies, but it appears in a society that has been brought up in this way. From this it follows that lack of interest very easily ensued and people did not care. In Hungary the opposition movements started out not from a mass movement similar to Solidarity, but from narrow intellectuals' movements. This also contribtued to it. Therefore, it was not of such big dimensions.

A government party that gets into such a situation, that has taken over power amid such conditions, and that was able to take it over because there was a crisis, because the reason they handed over power was that there was a bankruptcy, this government in the first period could only lose.

I can only say one thing. I have no kind of career objectives personally. What I do is serve. I will serve as long as my service is useful. The other thing is that I will do this as long as I can, if our people and the Hungarian nation demand it. Apart from this, I believe that we will merit its confidence in the coming period.

I do not know with what difficulties this will be accompanied, but I can say one thing—I will always talk about the difficulties.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minster, thank you for the conversation. I wish you the sonest possible recovery and successful work.

[Antall] Thank you. I hope that by next week I will be capable of more. I am not in the habit of letting myself go. Thank you very much.

Soviet Union Halts All Export Payments

LD2610215990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpt] We received information from the National Bank of Hungary yesterday that the Soviet Union has stopped all its immediate export payments to Hungary. In this connection the National Bank of Hungary stresses that no Hungarian enterprise should conclude an export contract or export [any goods] until further notice, because they cannot recover the money. [passage omitted]

Army Leader Says No Nuclear Weapons in Country

LD2710115790 Budapest MTI in English 1013 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Brussels, October 26 (MTI)—There were no nuclear warheads, only nuclear carriers, on Hungarian territory, Laszlo Borsits, chief-of-staff of the Hungarian Army, told the Brussels correspondent of MTI. Borsits commented on the Friday news conference of General Moiseyev, Soviet chief-of-staff, in Brussels.

The BELGIAN NEWS AGENCY quoted General Moiseyev as saying that all nuclear weapons had been removed from the Hungarian and Czechoslovakian territory, and their quantity had been sharply cut in Gemany.

Borsits recalled that the Soviet Union had deployed SS-21, SS-22 and SS-23 missiles in Czechoslovakia and the GDR. Although the missiles were suitable for carrying nuclear warheads, it is not known whether they had been provided with them.

According to official Soviet information, the Soviet troops stationed in Hungary were only equipped with nuclear carriers, Borsits said.

The 27 carriers of the Hungarian Armed Forces have never been equipped with nuclear warheads and their number has been reduced to 14, the Hungarian chief-of-staff said.

Poll Shows Walesa, Mazowiecki Leading Contenders

LD2610103490 Warsaw PAP in English 0931 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 26—The GAZETA WYBORCZA daily carries today the results of a presidential poll taken between October 17 and 23 on an all-Poland representative adult population sample (1,500 people) by the CBOS Public Opinion Research Centre.

"Tadeusz Mazowiecki can count on larger support among those polled (who included people determined to vote and those undecided). If he runs against Walesa in the second round of elections, the number of his supporters will be better by 11 percent," says the daily quoting CBOS figures.

"The prime minister is mentioned slightly more frequently as the person the respondents would like to see as their president (33:30). Also a larger percentage of the polled population consider him a suitable candidate for the Belvedere Palace (68:52).

"Half the number of those who think Mazowiecki is the right presidential candidate want to cast their votes in his favour, while in June they only amounted to one-third.

"High as it already is, the number of people who approve of the prime minister in the office of president has risen (from 61 per cent in June to 68 per cent now), whereas the number of his opponents decreased (from 31 to 23 per cent).

"Lech Walesa has also been successful in convincing an additional percentage of the electorate that he is going to make a good president.

"Over half of those polled in October approve of him in this office (and it was less than one-third in June). The percentage of opponents of Walesa as president has gone down (from 61 to 38 per cent) although it remains considerably higher than that for Mazowiecki.

"The remaining presidential candidates remain in the shadows of the two major runners. A negligible number of respondents opt for them (between 3.6 per cent and zero), while in June, apart from Mazowiecki and Walesa, Wojciech Jaruzelski and Bronislaw Geremek were given good chances too," reminds the GAZETA WYBORCZA in conclusion.

Walesa Continues Campaign Efforts; Meets Citizens

Draws First Lot for TV Campaign

LD2710100890 Warsaw PAP in English 2228 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 26—Lech Walesa will be the first to take part in a TV broadcast October 28 opening the electoral campaign of individual presidential candidates on the Polish Radio and TV as a result of the drawing of lots carried out at the headquarters of the Committee for Radio and TV today.

Stanislaw Tyminski, Roman Bartoszcze, Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Leszek Moczulski will also take part in turn in a broadcast announced at 9.00 p.m.

On October 29, the first channel of the radio starts a series of meetings with the candidates.

Talks With Olsztyn Electors

LD2710021290 Warsaw PAP in English 2033 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Olsztyn, Oct. 26—"I am strong with your strength, wise with your wisdom." This quotation from Solidarity Leader Lech Walesa was the motto of his today's meeting with electors in Olsztyn, the first one he held as an officially registered candidate for presidency. Asked about his programme, Walesa said: "How can you present a programme when it is unknown yet what powers a future president will have. I have my presidential programme, but I must know what my competences as president will be. I cannot make concrete promises which I would be unable to fulfill later on."

In reply to the question on unemployment, Walesa stated that Poland cannot afford it and that he thinks about solutions to this problem.

Answers Questions at Suwalki Rally

LD2710213190 Warsaw PAP in English 1613 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 27—Presidential candidate and Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa spent slightly over an hour talking to the population of Suwalki, north-eastern Poland, and answering their questions at an electoral rally held there today.

I am being accused of not having done a single thing in the past year, he claimed, but my part is to establish opportunities, which I have done. Whereas you should do the rest, we should set Poland right together, he said.

The presidential candidate referred also to his proposal of a 100-million-zloty free bonds for every Pole. It is not as much as it looks, he said, after all it is only USD [U.S. dollars] 10,000. Moreover, I do not want to give but lend it to you so that you had money with which you could buy shares in companies undergoing privatization.

Walesa appealed to those convened for greater involvement and participation in the elections, and expressed his belief that a better Poland could be built in a joint effort.

Holds Meeting at Branicki Palace

LD2810005690 Warsaw PAP in English 2004 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, Oct 27—The yard of the Branicki Palace in Bialystok, north-eastern Poland, was crowded today with local population who arrived for pre-electoral meeting with Lech Walesa.

It was announced that the City Council awarded Walesa an honorary status of resident.

In the course of the rally Walesa said that his presidency would be a regulator of a kind between president, parliament and society. The regulation is to encourage implementaion of reforms both in economy and in the state.

Replying to a question concerning ethnic minorities and the attitude toward Poles living in Poland's former eastern territories, the presidential candidate said:

"Every people—including the Lithuanians and the Belorussians—has the right to retain its individual character but not at the expense to others. Today, when borders between states cease to divide, we have to look at the security of everyone in a new way."

During his visit to Bialystok Walesa met with Catholic and Orthodox church officials, including Bishop Edward Kisiel and Archbishop Sawa as well as with the leader of the Tartar community in Poland—Stefan Mustafa Mucharski.

Earlier today, the presidential candidate visited Suchowola, where he talked to the parents of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Catholic priest assassinated by secret police in 1984.

Walesa's Citizens Committee Adopts Statute

LD2710214390 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1900 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The citizens committee attached to Lech Walesa is to be a wide, pluralistic representation of social forces originating from the independent movement and democratic opposition, and from its Solidarity current in particular. A statute of the committee has been adopted at today's meeting in Warsaw.

The committee expressed resolute opposition to a deputies' draft according to which only half of the future Sejm would be elected in free elections. The committee considered necessary speedy action to transform the radio and television committee from a government department into a public institution fully reflecting pluralism of public opinion.

Social Democratic Union Supports Walesa Candidacy

LD2710213590 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] In Warsaw, the national council of the Polish Social Democratic Union met to support the candidacy of Lech Walesa to the office of president. As we read in the communique signed by Tadeusz Fiszbach, the Polish Social Democratic Union highly values Lech Walesa's opposition to political revenge and collective responsibility, which means that all honest people will find their place in the collective effort to build a democratic homeland.

Peasant Solidarity Backs Walesa for President

LD2710214490 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Jozef Slisz [not further identified] familiarized representatives of a Solidarity Polish Peasant Party meeting in Warsaw today with the results of a meeting with Lech Walesa, for whom the main point of the party's program is the fact that peasant matters can only be solved in alliance with other social groups. The representatives at the meeting supported by a large majority the candidacy of Lech Walesa to the post of president of the Polish Republic.

Christian Citizens Movement Campaigns for Walesa

AU2610125990 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 22 Oct 90 p 1

[Tomasz Roguski report: "Keep the Ministers in the Ministries"]

[Text] At a conference on 20 October, the Christian Citizens Movement [ChRO] voiced "resolute disapproval" of the involvement of ministers and high state officials in Tadeusz Mazowiecki's election campaign. The ChRO called on them to end their election campaigning or resign from their posts.

At its previous conference, the ChRO expressed support for Lech Walesa's candidacy. The "Solidarity" chairman, who had been invited to the meeting, sent a letter explaining why he was unable to attend the conference and conveyed greetings to the participants.

Several dozen people from about 20 voivodships came to the conference. Most of them were members of the Christian National Union. The ChRO has set up its own election campaign bureaus in the regions and they are to cooperate with Lech Walesa's election campaign bureaus. Financial and organizational matters have already been settled with the "Solidarity" chairman's election headquarters in Gdansk.

ChRO Secretary Wojciech Bogaczyk appealed to the movement to wage a solely positive campaign on behalf of Lech Walesa and not to abuse the opposition. The

"Solidarity" chairman's election office has adopted a similar position. According to Bogaczyk, programmatic and ideological differences, not personalities, lie behind the conflict within "Solidarity." He said: "We support Lech Walesa, because his vision is the one that suits us most."

The ChRO appealed to Christian political groupings to support Lech Walesa's candidacy, because "it is concerned about the possibility of splitting the vote" of the communities that they represent. According to the movement, in these elections Lech Walesa stands for national, Christian aspirations.

The conference participants approved a statement proposed by Stefan Niesiolowski protesting what was said to be the propaganda being disseminated in the West by the Citizens Movement Democratic Action that depicts our country as being threatened by mounting nationalism. This does not correspond to the truth and the movement demands an immediate end to it. According to the ChRO, it diverts attention from the territorial claims that our Eastern neighbors are making vis-a-vis Poland. The conference resolution also expressed concern over the position of Poles in the former eastern territories.

Mazowiecki Campaign Activists Meet 21 Oct

AU2610132990 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 22 Oct 90 p 2

[Grzegorz Sieczkowski report: "Resolutely Forward"]

[Text] That is the slogan that will appear on Tadeusz Mazowiecki's election campaign posters. In the towns and cities, supporters of the current prime minister will stick up posters bearing the slogans: "Europe is here" and "We cannot afford experiments."

On Sunday, 21 October, activists from regional Mazowiecki election campaign committees met in Warsaw. The meeting was primarily devoted to organizational matters. Henry Wujec noted that the election campaign had already scored certain successes. He considered one of the success to be the speed with which the signatures had been gathered and submitted. Halina Bortnowska suggested that the neighborhood campaigning method be used, that is, people should encourage their neighbors to vote for Tadeusz Mazowiecki. According to Bortnowska, it was a very effective method and had been successfully employed in Western countries.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki arrived at the meeting after a considerable delay. He said: "I decided to wage this campaign, because I am convinced that it is not about personalities, but about the future of democracy in Poland; about a democracy that is open, tolerant, and, at the same time, rooted in values of Christian culture." Then, after pausing to think for a while and after much hemming and hawing, he added: "I do not wish to offend anyone, but the vital issue is democracy and not some system in which an individual occupies a dominant role and which is marked by a certain degree of chaos. I believe in the wisdom and maturity of society." At the end of his brief address, the prime minister said: "I very much ask you to retain your own style and not to get caught up in this tide of hatred that is, unfortunately, welling up and to which one must not succumb."

Mazowiecki made his speech against a backdrop of campaign posters on which he is shown smiling and which bear the slogan "Our prime minister—our president." Over the next few weeks, the 50,000 copies of the poster that have been printed will be stuck up all over the country.

ROAD To Support Mazowiecki in Elections

LD2810033990 Warsaw PAP in English 0119 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 27—"We elect president of all Poles and think that Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a man who does not want to divide, exclude or to despise, is best for this office. His victory stands a chance to become the victory of everybody," says a letter of the Coordinating Commission of the Citizen's Movement for Democratic Action ("ROAD") addressed to members and sympathizers of the movement.

Journalists learnt at today's press conference after a meeting of the "ROAD" founding council that the "ROAD" Coordinating Commission thought that possible election of Lech Walesa president did not create guarantees to integrate Poland with Europe. The council thinks that one can see increasingly clearly that the common denominator of his differentiated camp becomes frustration and looking after the interests of its own occupational groups. Walesa makes promises that are sometimes empty and an attempt to carry them out would lead to the breakdown of reforms and chaos.

Mazowiecki Receives Foil From Women Fencers

LD2710210190 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Tadeusz Mazowiecki met competitors, trainers, and sports activists in the Warszawianka Sports Club. He watched a match between young women fencers and received a foil as a present. Those accompanying him declared that it would come in very handy in the fight for the post of president. The prime minister promised that he would act in accordance with the principles of fair play.

Senate Rejects Penal Fiscal Law Amendment

LD2610004390 Warsaw PAP in English 2225 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 25—The Senate session today rejected entirely a law amending the penal fiscal law adopted by the Sejm on September 28. Without any objections, the Senate approved the following laws: On the protection of the state border and on border guards adopted on October 12. The coming into force of these

acts requires only to be signed by the president and to be announced in the official gazette.

The Senate meeting started from critical assessment of the penal fiscal law. Twenty-eight senators came out for rejecting the law entirely, 25 voted against and 12 abstained.

It seemed that the same would happen to the law on border guards. A minority motion tabled by Senator Mieczyslaw Tarnowski gained advocates in the initial stage of the discussion. The motion aimed to reject the law entirely as an act granting excessive privileges to border guards and giving them control powers allowing even the possibility to violate human rights to defend state borders. 39 senators came out for adopting the law without amendments, 24 voted against and five abstained.

Miscellaneous questions were in the last item of the meeting. The senators presented a letter from the Ukraine's Supreme Soviet in which deputies voice their satisfaction over the Senate's decision to condemn the Vistula action aimed against the Ukrainian minority. Senator Roman Ciesielski said that, presenting the letter, one should also mention letters sent to the Senate's chancellery by Polish citizens. They voiced their dissatisfaction over the stand and recall harm done to them by Ukrainians.

Liberal-Democratic Congress Chairman Interviewed

AU2610113890 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 22 Oct 90 p 11

[Interview with Janusz Lewandowski, chairman of the Liberal-Democratic Congress, by Wojciech Zaluska; place and date not given: "A Liberal-Conservative Walesa-ism"]

[Excerpts] [Zaluska] What is the chief goal of the Congress?

[Lewandowski] We want to establish on the political map of Poland a political orientation that has no tradition in this country. We are a liberal-conservative group. However, it would be schizophrenic to include the word "conservative" in our name. Poland is a country where everything has to be changed and not conserved. The adjective "democratic" heralds our democratic intentions.

[Zaluska] And what are they? Capitalism?

[Lewandowski] Of course. We do not shun that word. However, we want to add to it a certain label, e.g. democratic capitalism.

[Zaluska] I beg your pardon?

[Lewandowski] The market economy's success depends largely on whether society accepts it. We are learning from, for example, Margaret Thatcher, who, by means of privatization and by permitting many people to acquire shares, has led to a democratization and subdivision of ownership. However, in England this has been a cosmetic operation. In Poland we have the opportunity of consciously creating a certain structure of ownership. The liberals are in favor of clear rules of the market and equal chances for everyone, but they oppose equality as a final objective. That is pure utopia.

[Zaluska] The Congress has placed its support in Walesa, but Walesa is not everyone's idea of democracy and capitalism.

[Lewandowski] He is to us. "Walesa-ism" means political responsibility, which the "Solidarity" leader has displayed at every single step he has made since 1980. From my personal contacts with him, I am inclined to think that he advocates a healthy market economy and is opposed to any political experiments. I think Walesa would sooner hang up a portrait of Thatcher on his wall than one of Peron. Already in 1984 he had very interesting ideas on creating a breach in the economic wall of totalitarian socialism, for example by creating cooperatives. This program was very close to ours, we also wanted to abandon the formula of boycotts and we sought more positive actions.

On the other hand, Walesa supports democratic structures of the Western European kind, in other words a multiparty system in which parties present rival programs and society chooses by means of an election. We like that. [passage omitted]

[Zaluska] What concepts can we expect the Congress' November program to produce?

[Lewandowski] The program will not be all-encompassing. We will concentrate on those points which we consider to be our trump cards. The first one is ownership changes. We will present an expansion of my concept of granting citizens in general, not just workers, extensive ownership rights by issuing free coupons which can later be exchanged for shares. Of course, we will also present ideas on how to develop private enterprise. There is a multitude of technologies in today's world, it is necessary to grab hold of them.

[Zaluska] How many members does the Congress have?

[Lewandowski] We are still not a mass-membership party. We have the support of some economic associations; our people are heads of economic chambers, private business clubs, and banks. Many people currently pursuing "Solidarity's" economic activities either possess liberal views or actually belong to our party. The Congress' trump card right now is the quality, not quantity, of members.

19 Polish Presidential Election Districts in USSR

LD2710195790 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1300 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] In accordance with the decree of the minister of foreign affairs, electoral districts for voting in the presidential elections will be created in 39 states. The largest number—19 out of 109 districts—take in the territory of the Soviet Union.

Mazowiecki Receives Valencian President, Delegation

Also Greets U.S. Ambassador

LD2710014690 Warsaw PAP in English 1604 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 26—Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki today received President of the Valencian Autonomous Region (of Spain) Joan Lerma i Blasco now on an official visit to strengthen ties, especially economic, with Poland. The visit by Valencian president here follows the official visit by Prime Minister Mazowiecki to Madrid earlier this year.

* * *

The prime minister also received today the United States Ambassador to Poland Thomas Simons.

Holds Economic Cooperation Talks

LD2710102590 Warsaw PAP in English 2237 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 26—An administrative and industrial delegation from the province of Valencia has paid a two-day visit to Poland.

Chief of the delegation and head of the province Joan Lerma i Blasco was received by Tadeusz Mazowiecki today. Both politicians stressed that the visit had been initiated by the Polish prime minister during his recent visit to Spain.

The guests from Valenica brought a sizable package of proposals for cooperation in economy, trade, coproduction, joint ventures, and operations on third markets.

Both sides signed two agreements: between the Polish Economic Chamber and the Council of Chambers in Valencia concerning the exchange of information, trade missions, exhibitions, and economic promotion, and between the council and the international Poznan fair.

Reactions to Continued Moldavian Sepatatist Trends

Report on Chernovtsy Assembly Declaration

AU2610185090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1629 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—The first National Assembly of the Romanians living in the Soviet part of Bukovina was held at Chernovtsy after fifty years.

The declaration adopted by the participants says: "We, the Romanians living in Chernovtsy district, who know so well the cruel fate of living far from one's homeland, are extremely sad to find out the separatists in trans-Dniestria and the South of Moldova are willing to tear up the already bleeding Moldova. Expressing the will of most of the Romanians people living in Chernovtsy district, we disapprove of the anticonstitutional and anti-Moldovan acts of the so-called congresses of the Gagauz and Dniestrean deputies held at Comrat and Tiraspol and are of the opinion that the Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Moldova are entitled to take urgent steps against those who disobey the law and instigate the population to ethnical dissensions and who should be referred to justice.

"The participants in the assembly," the declaration stresses "expressed their hope that reason and truth would triumph, that the Russophone and Gagauz population of the republic would not let itself attracted in the actions staged by the forces opposing the reforms under way in Moldova."

March Against Separatism in Bessarabia

AU2610192490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1750 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—The Bucharest branch of the Romanian Former Detainees Association organized on Friday afternoon a march of protest against the separatism tendencies that are manifest in Bessarabia, of solidarity with the Romanians over the Prut. Several hundred persons participated.

The demonstrators handed over a protest to the USSR Embassy in Bucharest. Fyodor Malishev, head of the consular section of the embassy, took the protest and in turn handed the demonstrators President Mikhail Gorbachev's appeal to the people of the Republic of Moldova.

Pro-Bessarabia Group Set Up in Brasov

AU2610162890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1010 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—A new branch was set up at Brasov of the "Pro Basarabia and Bukovina" Cultural Organisation. Among its immediate targets, the branch envisages sub-branches in all important settlements of the county, direct contacts with Moldavian students and pupils from beyond the Prut learning in Romania and with their families, collection of funds to help natives of Bessarabia and Bukovina deported to Siberia under the Stalinist rule return to their place of origin and others.

Vatra Romaneasca Shows Solidarity

AU2610192490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1741 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—The "Vatra Romaneasca" Union, a social cultural organization of civic attitude of Romania, has learned with deep concern about the plans of making lawful the proclamation of the so-called Gagauz and Transdniester Republics which it considers illegal and in flagrant contradiction with the provisions of the laws in force in the USSR and of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, reads a document released today by that organization.

The "Vatra Romaneasca" Union is firmly against such a unilateral measure meant to disintegrate the Moldavian state and addresses the peoples of the Soviet Union, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the president of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev personally, urging them to hamper the fulfilment of the plan regarding the proclamation of so-called independent territories to be abusively torn off from the present territory of the Republic of Moldova.

The "Vatra Romaneasca" Union also calls on the people of the Republic of Moldova to prove calm and wisdom, to overcome this situation and find the most suitable ways of cooperation and coexistence among all the inhabitants of Bessarabia and Transdniester.

The "Vatra Romaneasca" Union also addresses the United Nations and the Helsinki Document signatory states to do their utmost to safeguard the unity of the Republic of Moldova.

Answering the appeal of the People's Front of Moldova the "Pro-Bessarabia and Bukovina" Cultural Association calls on people everywhere, on the entire international community, on all people of good faith to do everything possible to support the just cause of all the Romanians between the Prut and the Dniester.

Unity Party Protests USSR's Stance

AU2610162990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1105 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—The Romanians' National Unity Party sent to the national news agency "ROMPRES" a declaration to be released, containing a protest against internationalist and restructuralist neoimperialism in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, that under these difficult moments for the Moldavians on the left bank of the Prut, in the absence of historic rights or international law, after 50 years of darkness and cold, persecution and robbery, deportation and man slaughter, has taken the first steps to the democratization of the political and economic life.

The declaration also calls on all Moldavians deported or living in other republics to come back and help strengthen Moldavia and on Moldavia's Government to take urgent measures for repatriation.

The declaration is signed by Deputy Octavian Capatina on behalf of the party.

Democratic Party Stance Given

AU2710175290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1637 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 27/10/1990—Regarding the grave situation created in the Moldovan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] through the illegal and non-constitutional proclamation of the so-called Gagauz and Dniester Republics and the tendency to divide the republic's territory, the Romanian Democratic Party expresses its full solidarity with the brethren across the Prut and calls all Romanians, no matter where they are, to protest against diversionist manoeuvres arranged by those circles interested in weakening and destabilizing the sovereign Moldovan state, reads a communique the aforementioned party sent to the ROMPRES news agency.

Social Democratic Party Position

AU2710175390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1636 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 27/10/1990—A communique sent to the ROMPRES news agency by the Romanian Social Democratic Party underscores inter alia: "We express our solidarity with our brethren between the Prut and the Dniester in their just fight and we support and will support the actions taken by the People's Front in Moldova to maintain the republic's territorial integrity and unity."

Rallies Show Solidarity With Moldavia

AU2810180390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1515 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 28/10/1990—The Bucharest-Kishinev Cultural Association, the Free Democratic Party and the Free Republican Party organized in Bucharest on October 28 a new rally of solidarity with the Moldovans on the other bank of the Prut, and of protest against those who try to maim the integrity of Bessarabian Moldova. The participants—several thousand citizens of various social categories, ages and political beliefs—traversed the centre of the capital up to the Soviet Embassy where they handed over a letter addressed to the USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and to the Congress of People's Deputies of the Soviet Union, protesting against "the attempt at the territorial integrity of the Moldovan Republic."

All along the march, that proceeded in perfect order, slogans were shouted in support of the Romanian brothers across the Prut who are faced these days with dramatic events triggered by anti-national, irresponsible, separatist and destabilizing forces that try to dismember the territory of Moldova between the Prut and the Dniester.

Boards carried by demonstrators comprised appeals in support of the Moldovan Republic's territorial integrity, of the [words indistinct] that republic, of unity and understanding of all people living in Moldova across the Prut.

The Committee of the "Pro Bessarabia and Bukovina" Cultural Association, Teleorman branch, together with political formations and apolitical associations in the county, organized on Sunday in Alexandria a rally in support of the legitimate rights of the Romanians across the Prut. They expressed their protest against the destabilizing and separatist actions of the Gagauz and Transdniestrans in the Moldovan Republic. The rally ended to the tunes of the well-known "Union Dance."

A rally was organized also in Timisoara city by the League for the Human Rights Defence, the Timisoara-Kishinev Society, the Pro-Bessarabia and Bukovina Association, the League of Bessarabian Students of Timisoara, other organizations and political parties in the locality. An appeal was read out at the rally on behalf of the Council of the People's Front of Moldova whereby Moscow's and international organizations' support is invited in order to overcome the current situation in the Moldovan Republic and the re-establishment of the lawful order. In spite of the rainfalls, the rally was participated in by several thousands.

Iasi Meeting Shows Support for Moldavians

AU2810185090 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1800 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] A protest march took place in Iasi this afternoon, which was organized by the Stefan cel Mare Society. The participants in this event thus demonstrated their concern with and disapproval of the attempts of the Gagauz and Transdniestran separatists in the Moldavian Republic to destroy the country's unity and political stability.

The demonstrators, who started off in front of the Ioan Cuza University, proceeded along some of Iasi's main streets such as Unity Square and Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, and stopped in front of the equestrian statue of the great Moldavian ruler. Those who took the floor called for understanding, peace, and wisdom—the only way to ensure and preserve the integrity, sovereignty, and independence of the Moldavian Republic.

Cultural Association Voices Support

AU2910144090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1240 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 29/10/1990—In a note sent to the "ROMPRES" news agency the "Pro Bessarabia and Bukovina" Cultural Association expresses its

satisfaction over the fact that the appeal launched by the People's Front in Moldova had a great echo in the country and abroad, all Romanians voicing their deep concern for their brothers across the Prut. After emphasising that Romania's Parliament, the Romanian Patriarchy, political parties, the press, radio and television, thousands of citizens in the homeland had participated in that manifestation of brotherly solidarity, the association calls all Romanians no matter their political options to prove their unity in front of the nation's major dangers.

Demonstrators Demolish Soviet Monument in Cluj

AU2610184890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1639 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/90—Several demonstrators who had taken part in a rally in Cluj-Napoca tried to demolish the Soviet heroes' memorial, which they considered a symbol of the communist scourge. Off the pedestal which supports the "T-34" Soviet tank they tore the bronze wreath, the marble slates that covered it and chunks of concrete.

The rally was organized at the end of the works of the Romanian Democratic Fora convention and degenerated late in the evening in an antigovernmental demonstration.

Spokesman on UN Aid, Pollution, Citizens in Iraq

AU2610172090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1618 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—"Romania is both a member of UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and one of its beneficiaries," Teodor Melescanu spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told a news conference.

Romania has used 32 million dollars given by UNDP in aid over the past few years for the development of its industry, agriculture, science and technology as well as for turning into account natural resources.

Among the projects achieved with UNDP aid the spokesman mentioned the system of irrigation in the Danube Plain, the Institute for Vegetable Research at Vidra, the Institute for Animal Research at Corbeanca, the Polytechnic Institutes in Bucharest and Timisoara and Romania will be the beneficiary of another four million dollar aid over 1992-1996.

As for the consultations held in the capital of Romania on October 23-24 concerning the setting up of a Human Rights Institute in Bucharest, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman pointed out that a bill would be submitted to Parliament in this respect. The above mentioned institute will be independent.

Teodor Melescanu spoke next about Romania's point of view that any measures intended to eliminate pollution in the Bulgarian port of Ruse area should be considered by the two sides. The Romanian party asked for an international commission of experts to make measurements. The Bulgarian reaction to Romania's request is yet unknown.

The spokesman announced that diplomatic talks were being held over exit visas for the Romanian experts still in Iraq (according to procedures in use in that country). No Romanian experts are in Kuwait anymore and about 400 Romanians are on a land reclamation site in Iraq. Their repatriation is only a matter of days.

Roman Receives Swedish Government Delegation

AU2610172890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1621 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman received on October 26 a Swedish government delegation, headed by Goeran Hakansson, secretary of state for humanitarian assistance affairs with the Ministry of Social Affairs.

They discussed concrete modalities of use of the aid collected in Sweden for the orphan and handicapped children in Romania. The Romanian prime minister thanked for the assistance given by Sweden in handling this difficult situation and stressed that the humanitarian aid was welcome and it was to be added to the Romanian Government's program of fastest improvement of the life of orphan and handicapped children in the specialized institutions.

The interview was attended by Sweden's ambassador in Bucharest.

At the end of the interview, the head of the Swedish delegation stated to a writer of the ROMPRES news agency: "I am in Romania in behalf of the Swedish Government to represent various ministries and non-government organizations carrying on activity in Romania. I have conveyed a message from the Swedish prime minister about the situation of the orphan and handicapped children in Romania. I have had a very constructive discussion with the Romanian prime minister and think this makes a solid base for a future collaboration between the two governments and the non-government organizations working in Romania."

Martian Meets Greek Official, Polish Envoy

AU2610185190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1632 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—Friday, the speaker of the Assembly of Deputies, Mr. Dan Martian, received Mr. Teodore Kotsonis [spelling as received], member of Greece's Parliament, now on a visit to Romania.

Both sides appreciated that the two countries' Parliaments could and should contribute to the development of the relations between Romania and Greece, to the

further deepening of the climate of confidence, understanding and cooperation between the two peoples.

On the same day, Mr. Dan Martian received Mr. Sigmund Komorowski, Poland's ambassador to Bucharest, who made a presentation call.

Foreign Minister Nastase Departs for Bulgaria

AU2810180490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1650 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 28/10/1990—Adrian Nastase, Romanian minister of foreign affairs, left for Sofia on October 28 afternoon, on an official visit of friendship, as guest of his Bulgarian counterpart.

The foreign minister stated at the airport to a ROMPRES writer: "The visit to Bulgaria shows our natural wish to evaluate as best as can the bilateral relations and especially to seek out solutions to orient together the exchanges between our countries, both politically, and economically, culturally and in the other fields.

"Therefore, the bilateral diplomacy obviously has to play an essential role as regards this positive and constructive outlook we share with our Bulgarian colleagues. No doubt, there are, like always between neighbours who are side by side both in the complementarity of economic interests and in problems that inevitably emerge in their coexistence, certain difficulties which have however very fine prospects to be settled on this visit.

"I am therefore very optimistic," he stated, "about the results of the visit and I think we will able to find together the zones of interest in which the speed of development of the bilateral relations should be the highest."

Iliescu, Roman Send Message to CSFR's Havel

AU2710175690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1537 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 27/10/1990—Romania's President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman conveyed a message to Mr. Vaclav Havel, president of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, on the national day of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic expressing cordial congratulations and most sincere wishes of happiness and prosperity for the Czech and Slovak peoples. The message also underscores that the irreversible democratic transformations in the two countries set up the favourable framework for the intensification of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Romanian, Czech and Slovak peoples, contributing to the building of a Europe of democracy and mutually advantageous collaboration, to strengthening peace worldwide.

A similar message was conveyed by Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Adrian Nastase to his counterpart in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

Government Delegation Touring Near East

AU2610192590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1745 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—A governmental delegation headed by Mr. Doru Pana, minister of public works, transports and physical planning, left on October 26 for several Arab countries: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman. The delegation is made up of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry, Petrol and Transports Departments.

In the countries to be visited the delegation will examine the concrete possibilities of economic and financial cooperation, the eventual concluding of bilateral understandings in various fields such as oil and natural gas, constructions, transports, air transports included, a.o. [among others]

First Commercial Accord Signed With South Africa

AU2710144290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0954 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Pretoria, ROMPRES 27/10/1990—The first commercial accord has been signed between Romania and the Republic of South Africa, by South-African minister of commerce, industry and tourism, Kent Durr, and Romanian Minister of Commerce and Tourism Constantin Fota. It stipulates the development of economic relations between the two countries. To this end a joint commission will be set up, to meet annually.

The Romanian minister invited Kent Durr to visit Romania on the first session of the commission, during which more contracts are expected to be signed.

Delegation Scheduled To Visit Japan, South Korea

Severin on Upcoming Visit to South Korea

AU2810181290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1508 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 28/10/1990—This visit is a logical continuation of the diplomatic relations established between Romania and the Republic of Korea, which is in evidence of our foreign policy openness, of our resolve to pursue a dynamic policy contemplating wide-ranging relations and contacts with countries that lie far away, Adrian Severin, minister for reform and relations with Parliament, assistant to the prime minister, told a ROMPRES journalist before his departure for the Republic of Korea.

It is my conviction, he stressed, that the diplomatic relations established with the Republic of Korea and the Romanian visit of the South Korean foreign minister were important, highly significant events, and I think that my visit to the Republic of Korea will further the

favourable premises that those events put in place, and strengthen the good foundation that was laid, making a good beginning in the bilateral relationship.

The visit, said the minister, will be an opportunity "to show in detail what we in Romania do which, unfortunately, is very little known in the world, hence in the Republic of Korea as well." "We expect," he said, in another string of ideas, "the South Koreans to share with us their experience to get out of an all-out economic crisis" and added that he wanted to learn "as much as I can from the South Korean experience of the market economy and its organization."

In context, the minister said he hoped he would get tangible support from the South Korean authorities to send to Romania experts who can advise the Romanian Government on how to make its reform program and put it into effect, and even to find "South Korean managers eager to take over the administration of economic units in order to reorganize them and manage them in agreement with the needs and specifics of the market economy."

In line with Romania's "open door policy" on capital investment, the minister ventured the opinion that South Korean investors could integrate psychologically in the Romanian atmosphere because at the end of the war they had gone through as difficult a period as the one Romania was now in from an economic point of view. The minister showed that the setting existed that favours foreign investment in Romania and that the laws passed by Parliament or before Parliament gave equal treatment to foreign and Romanian investors. Accordingly, foreign investors can take out of the country all the profits made in convertible currency and a share of those made in lei equal to 15 percent of the capital they invested.

Delegation Departs for Visits

AU2710144190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0849 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 27/10/1990—A Romanian Government delegation headed by Minister Adrian Severin, assistant to the prime minister for reform and relations with the Parliament, took off on October 27 in the morning, for a visit to Japan and South Korea.

In a statement to the press before leaving, the head of the delegation said:

"The government visit to Japan and South Korea is an important moment and an action of major significance for us now that we are implementing a program of reform meant to ensure the transition of the Romanian society to the market economy and to a Western-type democracy. The two visits will occasion meetings with officials, representatives of government and non-government institutions, businessmen and journalists.

"We will have the opportunity to more clearly and extensively present our program of reform. We also expect to receive information, data, suggestions inspired from the experience of the respective countries which is very interesting. Last but not least, we expect to lay foundations for a cooperation in several domains, including specialty assistance in view of implementation of the reform in our country. So, we will have a great number of interviews and talks on which we pin great expectations."

Radio Frequency Seminar With U.S. Ends

AU2610162790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1009 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—The three days' Romanian-American conference on radio frequency spectrum management ended with a seminar attended by a large number of Romanian experts representing the national radio and television broadcasting companies, the Ministry of Communications as well as promoters of future independent radio and television stations in Romania. The exchange of information was conducted in three sections, centred on technicals, legislation and mobile services.

The American side expressed their intention to further cooperate with Romania in the field of communications, through seminars and scholarships.

Vatasescu Interview on Supplies, Energy

AU2310155690

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Television Service in Romanian at 1700 GMT on 16 October carries a new 40-minute program series entitled "Viewpoints." The first edition deals with the government. An unidentified moderator says that these programs are broadcast by the government's Mass Media Department and that their aim is to inform the public about the official position of the government on "major domestic and international political issues." The moderator also invites the opposition to present its viewpoints, and he says that this is an important step toward creating pluralism in the audio-visual media.

This introductory statement is followed by a video clip of a joint Parliament session "a few days ago"—presumably on 11 October—which, an unidentified commentator points out, discussed various documents, including a government report on ensuring foodstuffs, energy, and fuel for the population in the 1990-1991 winter.

This video clip is then followed by an interview (the place and date of which are not given) with Anton Vatasescu, minister of state in charge of industrial and trade activities, on the report he presented at the aforementioned Parliament session, who says that there are no appropriate conditions for an immediate improvement of the situation next year. On the basis of charts, he then demonstrates the increases achieved in the case of some foodstuffs as compared with last year. He says that no great differences are expected in the coming year and

mentions the shortage of sugar. In connection with staples, he says that outputs were not higher this year, but that the distribution was completely different.

Asked about incentives in agriculture, Vatasescu speaks about the changes that have occurred and stresses that farmers will be provided incentives to cultivate those crops which are needed and that these incentives will be based on prices. Another incentive, he says, will be the fact that no fodder will be distributed to enterprises with poor results.

He also says that the creation of joint companies is under way and stresses that farmers should not be afraid that "the new laws will deprive them of the results of their work."

In connection with energy supply, he says that "the quantity supplied to the population is constantly increasing," and proves it on the basis of charts. He continues by saying that "the one to suffer will be industry," which "will consume 83, 84, or 85 percent compared with last year." He also emphasizes that compared with other countries, Romania has double and even triple energy consumption per capita, and that such quantities cannot be ensured.

Vatasescu then discussed thermal energy planned for industry and the people, exports, imports for industry, agriculture, and the people in rubles and dollars, and the trade deficit. Asked whether the Gulf crisis affects the structure of this deficit, Vatasescu says that the ensuing price increases mean a loss of "some $500 million per quarter for Romania—that is, half the deficit." He then discusses oil, crude oil requirements and exports, Romania's resources and potential.

He emphasizes that "long-term solutions are the only sound solutions for the economy on which we want to build from now on: nuclear power plants, which means finishing the Cernavoda nuclear power plant," a new power plant, and discovery of new deposits.

He continues to discuss consumer goods sold to the people and the wages paid, "which are much higher than what is being manufactured." In this context, he says that outputs have to be increased and that a halt must be put to illicit sales of goods abroad.

Asked about the likelihood of a monetary reform, Vatasescu assures the people that "this issue has not been raised for a moment." He concludes by saying that to accelerate the introduction of the market economy, the government has discussed the liberalization of prices. He says that "the people's dissatisfaction is justified" and that "the only remedy to shorten" this hard time "is to accelerate the reform."

Roman Chairs Government Meeting on Production

AU2610192090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1900 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/90—Friday afternoon Romania's Government gathered in its weekly working meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Petre Roman. There were debated a report on the achievement of the physical production at the main industrial goods over October 1-24, 1990, some measures to make up for the losses in the 1990 activity in autonomous companies, state-capital commercial societies and in other state-run economic units, a series of bills.

The government is determined to put an end to the tendency of steady deterioration of the economic situation through all the legal means at its disposal. This stand taken by the members of the government at the proposal of Prime Minister Petre Roman in the 26 October meeting is a premise to take the country out of this economic disaster, as it results also from the report on achieving production over 1-24 October.

We cannot afford the same work time as the developed countries since our conditions are not on a par with theirs, stressed the Romanian premier showing that the government had the obligation to remind the economic agents that price liberalisation cannot cancel the consequences of a low productivity. The reduction of work time made by violating the normative acts in force which accepted it only conditioned by a rise in productivity, is the core of the present difficult situation and can partly be the cause of bankruptcy for each enterprise. As long as productivity cannot be raised by other means the increase of work time by only eight percent—that is by giving up two free Saturdays—can make up the difference between survival and bankruptcy.

During the talks on that item on the agenda stress was laid on the fact that government would use all available economic levers, state orders included, to back and orient economic agents, but this will not be done to compensate the lack of one's own effort, non-work.

The government analysed measures suggested to make up for the losses in the economic activity in 1990.

Discussed were also a number of bills that are to be submitted for approval to Parliament, and resolutions of the government concerning the current economic administration were adopted.

Iliescu Visits Braila Municipality Economic Units

AU2610192190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1905 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—On October 26 Romania's President Ion Iliescu went to Braila Municipality where he visited the readymades enterprise

and the well-known heavy equipment enterprise "Progresul." The Romanian head of state discussed with executives of the Braila County and Municipality, with local representatives of political parties. Approach was made of concrete aspects of the social and economic activity in that county.

Young Liberal Leader Comments on Political Trends

AU2610184690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1626 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/10/1990—Several major political tendencies are emerging now in Romania's Parliament. They will probably be the nuclei of future credible political parties, says Dinu Patriciu, executive secretary of the National Liberal Party—the Young Wing, in an interview for "TINERETUL LIBER" daily.

"At the moment, there are four orientations, grouped at two levels: The conservatives, on the one hand, with their two subgroups: Conservatives with totalitarian dogmatic mentalities, whom I can hardly call communists because my conviction is that the number of real communists in 1990 Romania is even smaller than in 1945, but who slow down the pace of reform due to a collectivist thinking, and a conservative cluster of people who suffered a lot in the 50's, spent years in prison and were then pushed to the periphery of society. These are peasant party leaders and, regretfully, some liberals too, who cannot grasp the real thing in Romania now. To their mind, the democratic evolution of the country should pick up from where it stopped 45 years ago. In our opinion, this approach is completely wrong and equally conservative, which could only generate politics for the sake of politics, the Balkanisation of the Romanian political arena, a course which, in the interwar period ended in a dictatorship.

On the other hand, we have the reformers, splitting into reformers of a social democratic tinge, who place social protection above everything in the transition to a free market economy, and the liberals, who put the pace of the transition before anything, starting from the concept that only the accumulation of wealth can lead to its redistribution.

Bucharest Trials of Ex-PCR Members Continue

Defendant Mizil Questioned

AU2610162590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0932 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 26/10/1990—The Bucharest Territorial Military Court continues on October 26 the trial of the former members of the CC [Central Committee] of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party—PCR] Executive Political Committee who stand charges of genocide, with the examination of defendant Paul Niculescu Mizil.

The defendant is charged with having approved the use of fire arms for the repression of the revolution, while participating in the Executive Political Committee meetings of December 17 and 22, 1989. The bill of indictment mentions that he was utterly insincere in the penal investigation, denying his responsibility. It is shown that he denied obvious truths or skipped data that accused him, distorted the facts and tried to create confusion regarding the essential circumstances of the cause.

Paul Niculescu Mizil, aged 58, had been among the oldest members of the RCP peak nomenklatura, having numerous functions in the central party and state bodies, among which the function of propaganda secretary of the CC of the RCP, minister of education, minister of finance. In December 1989 he was chairman of the Centrocoop Consumer Cooperatives.

Curticeanu To Be Tried Next

AU2710143890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0845 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 27/10/1990—The Bucharest Territorial Military Court continued on October 26 the trial of the former members of the CC [Central Committee] of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party—PCR] Executive Political Committee who stand charges of genocide, with the hearing of defendant Paul Niculescu Mizil. He rejected the accusation to have agreed in the two Executive Political Committee meetings, of December 17 and 22, 1989, to the decision that revolution be repressed by firearms.

"As for the accusation of genocide" the defendant said, "no plan of violent repression of a community, social, ethnical, religious group or of revolutionaries was discussed. Such an accusation is a pretext for the putting of the former RCP leadership under arrest. It was uttered at a time when it was believed and assessed that the dead were counted by the tens of thousands and in conditions in which the extreme-right forces were very active in the revenge on those who had been on the higher RCP leadership or on the former Securitate. Those forces incited to genocide through extremist slogans, demanding the death of communists, of the former members of the Executive Political Committee. It is publicly known that the man who shouted from a tank such urges is also the author of the accusations against us. However, he is now repudiated by our whole people." As the court asked the name of the respective person, the defendant said it was about Dumitru Mazilu, whom he did not consider a former dissident but a right-wing extremist.

Referring to the accusation that pursuant to a decision made in the Executive Political Committee 1033 people died, the defendant said there was no material evidence to that effect, as the circumstances in which they had been shot were still completely unclear. "Everyone has to be tried individually, not by social categories, not by the criterium of his belonging to a group, everyone has to

bear the responsibility for his political or moral deeds, if they have to be tried," the defendant added.

The next session of the trial is scheduled on October 30, 0900 hrs [0700 GMT] when defendant Silviu Curticeanu will be examined. demonstration.

Government Denies Authorizing 'Human Experiment'

AU2710144590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0950 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 27/10/1990—Answering allegations in British and French publications, especially the French weekly "L'EXPRESS" which, under the headline "The Babies, Guinea Pigs of Ward No. 4" accuse the Romanian Government to have authorized "a human experiment" that is "a scientific and moral scandal." Daily ADEVARUL publishes the stand of Doctor Adrian Streinu, director of the Colentina Hospital.

"I intend to address a protest note to L'EXPRESS, which takes the liberty of quoting me with assertions I have never uttered" says Doctor Streinu, assessing that it is "a violation of elementary professional deontology." What happens in the English and French press, he added, "is like a campaign of slandering the government, first of all, which has nothing to do with this case."

Giving details on the treatment branded by L'E[illegible]PRESS, Dr. Streinu mentioned that it was applied to an AIDS patient in the hospital, who asked for it, and in the case of the children, their parents gave their written consent, insisting desperately that we do administer to their children the respective treatment given that they were hopeless anyway.

Referring to the medicine used, Dr. Streinu stated that he could not maintain it was faultless. "We investigate, we hope and have no other solution than, eventually to abandon the patients to death without any attempt to help them. Which would be inadmissible," stated Dr. Adrian Streinu to daily ADEVARUL.

Commission Invited To Assess AIDS Treatment

AU2710144790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1126 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 27/10/1990—In a release sent to the ROMPRES news agency, the Romanian Ministry of Health of Romania announces it has decided to stop the clinical trial of FLV 23/a in the treatment of AIDS patients, adults and children, at Colentina Hospital in Bucharest.

The Ministry of Health, the release shows, invited a commission of the World Health Organization to evaluate the conduct and the trial of FLV 23/a and to analyze the data from the clinical trial as designed and conducted on 83 children in Romania are not sufficient to determine the safety or the efficacy of FLV 23/a. Besides, the manufacturer could not provide data as to the chemical structure, manufacturing method, convincing scientific evidence of antiviral or any other clinical effect of the substance.

Opposition Criticizes Television's Partiality

AU2710172990

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Television Service in Romanian at 1700 GMT on 17 October carries a 32-minute program of the opposition parties within the framework of the new program series entitled "Viewpoints." This second edition of the program deals with the opposition parties and their problems. All speakers complain that people "do not know what the opposition does," because the television network is practically in the hands of the government. They take turns criticizing the government and the television president, Razvan Theodorescu.

To begin with, an unidentified moderator says that "a 32-minute-long cassette" has been received from the opposition parties and then proceeds to introduce the people participating in what he calls "this roundtable." Owing to the poor quality of the tape and constant background noise, the names of the representatives of the Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania, the National Liberal Party, the Ecologist Movement, and of the National Peasants Christian Democratic Party, who participate in this roundtable, cannot be understood. The same unidentified moderator says that they are here to "express their viewpoints on the decision made by Romanian Radio-Television," and on its role.

The first one to take the floor is a National Liberal Party representative who says that the "television is partial to the government." He pleads for an "independent television network" which is not partial to the government, ensures equal chances for all, and is "strictly objective and informative." He continues by saying that instead of meeting the demand of creating an "alternative television network, the government offers this solution" of "40 minutes twice a week," while the government itself "has all current events and other broadcasts at its disposal." He emphasizes that they will not put up with this solution "which is only throwing dust in people's eyes," because, in fact, the "opposition has far from the same chance as the government." He also deplores the inadequate technical conditions available to them, the lack of adequate editorial space, and again pleads for an alternative television channel with proper technical equipment and competent assistance.

Another unidentified party representative says that "the opposition is treated as an exotic phenomenon," whereas it should be of "major interest for television." He also claims that the opposition should not be allocated a 40-minute program, but should have the "right to broadcast." He then says that the way the opposition is treated "puts it in a very delicate position" and this leads to "great suspicion" about "genuine intentions toward

democratization." He thinks that "this is not in the interest of the government nor in that of the Romanian society."

The representative of the Ecologist Movement speaks about ways to improve television programs with the presentation of contradictory viewpoints on most issues under discussion. She stresses that such a "dialogue is absolutely necessary," and strongly opposes "discussions by bits and pieces." In this connection another representative says: "What kind of a dialogue is this" in which the government has three to four hours available, whereas political parties have only 20-30 seconds.

The representative of the Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania complains about people not knowing much about the opposition. He continues by discussing "cultural autonomy" for the Hungarian minority and education in the mother tongue. He also expresses satisfaction with having the opportunity to discuss all these things on television in front of the Romanian people. He deplores technical conditions and blames Razvan Theodorescu for not wanting to help. He also requests a 60-minute program for the opposition twice a week "to develop this political activity."

In conclusion they agree that "truth and proper information is needed," that "events should be presented as they are, not as television presents them."

The National Liberal Party representative, who took the floor first, says "we will not be satisfied with these bits and pieces; we need an alternative television network in Romania." The government "has to meet this demand of a major part of Romanians." In so doing, "it is not making a present to the opposition," but "will serve the public like any government concerned about ensuring proper communication and informing the public." He concludes by saying "the public must be informed correctly. This can be ensured only by an independent, alternative television network."

In conclusion, the moderator expresses the hope "that the necessary measures will be taken to ensure equal conditions for the opposition."

Journalists Protest Press Department Practices

AU2610215090 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 19 Oct 90 p 1

[Journalists' Association note: "A New Press Section?"]

[Text] Is there a new press section? We protest the practices of the government Press Department which, of late, is posing as a new press and propaganda section of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party. From the moment it was established, this department's activity caused innumerable crises in the publication of newspapers, especially through its repeated attempts to guide—in a dictatorial way—all activities of the press and communications. In this sense we want to recall the intolerable practices of the Free Press Publishing House, the former SCINTEIA, which views itself—on its own accord—as publisher and not just as administrator as it actually should based on its status. Moreover, the case of Mr. Vartan Arachelian—who, through violation of the laws in force, was suspended for a period of three months from his activities in television—has not been solved yet.

The actions taken by the Press and Communications Department by no means suggest that the government is indeed proceeding to democratic reforms.

We assess the activity of Minister State Secretary Adrian Sirbu as particularly negative and demand his dismissal.

Steering Council of the Journalists' Association of Romania

Secretariat on 'Unacceptable' U.S. Senate Decision

LD2610194190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1213 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 26 (TANJUG)—The adoption of the amendments by the American Senate which discriminates one part of Yugoslavia, in this case the Republic of Serbia, is unacceptable for Yugoslavia—it is stressed today at the Yugoslav Secretariat for Foreign Affairs concerning yesterday's decision by the American Senate that the use of assistance would be granted to Yugoslavia "only to those Yugoslav republics in which democratic elections have been held, and where human rights are not violated."

This amendment, as well as the entire law on assistance to foreign countries, has these days been discussed by a conference of representatives of the Senate and of the House of Representatives of the U.S.

Marendic Reviews Outlook for EC Membership

LD2810222590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1643 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia is still far from Europe and has to do much to prepare for a possible joining of the European Community [EC] in some five to seven years, federal Development Minister Bozidar Marendic told TANJUG today. Marendic said that the government of Prime Minister Ante Markovic was firmly convinced that Yugoslavia has to carry out its economic and political reform before becoming an equal partner to the EC nations and member of the organization.

Yugoslavia's cooperation with Europe is another matter, and we are investing efforts to use this way, too, to prepare as quickly as possible for formal membership in the EC, he said.

In order to improve our cooperation, we must take into account 1992, when the community will acquire a new quality, said Marendic. He also noted that the federal government was convinced that Yugoslavia as a whole can much more easily and sooner prepare for full membership in the EC, than its individual republics, regardless of their development and democratization levels.

Government Calls For Aid to Yugoslavs in Hungary

LD2810152990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1410 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government today repeated its demand to Hungary to extend necessary assistance to those Yugoslav nationals in Hungary who cannot return home because of the blockade of cities and borders in petrol price dispute.

The Hungarian ambassador in Belgrade presented assurances that his government, now in intensive negotiations with strikers, would see to it that the soonest possible exit of all foreigners would be ensured. He added he learnt from the Foreign Ministry that strikers had already allowed foreigners to leave the country. Railway and air traffic in Hungary unfold normally, he added.

Jovic Wants Peaceful, Democratic Crisis Solution

LD2710204490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1552 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Oct (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia's constitutional crisis is marked especially with grown ethnic and inter-republican conflicts and with a strengthening of the separatist forces who see its solution exclusively in a breakup of the country, president of the Yugoslav Presidency Dr. Borisav Jovic said here on Saturday taking to a delegation of people's heroes.

The crisis can be settled by peaceful, democratic means, with respect for the constitution and laws, Dr. Jovic Said. Otherwise there will be chaos, and that must not be allowed, he pointed out, adding that the people's heroes and all other veterans [words indistinct] to contribute towards a speedier overcoming of the crisis.

Members of the delegation asked President Jovic that the federal organs prevent those who seek to poison ethnic relations and stir up dissension between the Yougoslav peoples. Anarchy must not be allowed to supersede democracy, they [word indistinct] noting that no Yugoslav people or republic has chances outside Yugoslavia.

Assembly Body Fails To Agree on Knin Report

AU2610215890 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 17 Oct 90 p 1

[D. Pusonic report: "Without 'Details' and—Essence"]

[Text] Belgrade—The Internal Policy Committee of the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly waited in vain for three hours yesterday [16 October] for its working group—which spent three days in Banija and Knin—to propose conclusions and suggest measures for reducing interethnic hysteria in Croatia: Six members of the working group advised that they had not after all managed to agree on how to assess what they had seen in Croatia, so it is understandable that they did not manage to reach agreement on a single possible measure.

Some of the delegates were truly astonished with the decision by all the members of the working group to delete several "details" from its report, which merely contained a chronology of activities based on shorthand notes. First, the stand, which was heard during talks with the leaders of the Assembly of Croatia and Stipe Mesic, that the refusal of Serbs to surrender their arms "not only is described as banditry but also as an attempt to establish a parallel authority." Second, that "the behavior of the Knin citizens was helped in many respects by the writer Dobrica Cosic, Colonel General

Stevan Mirkovic, and Milan Babic, president of the Communal Assembly of Knin."

Third, the whole of the following passage was also deleted: "In such a difficult situation, Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, receives representatives of the Serbian people of his own choice and gives them his full support, but does not receive representatives of the Croatian people from the region which is primarily inhabited by the Serbian people who are also threatened and upset because they live in what seems like an occupied territory. The Serbian people in Croatia would not behave the way they do if they did not have the support of their 'big brother' and if the president of the SFRY Presidency were not Borisav Jovic."

As explained at the insistence of several delegates, the report was "shortened so that minor issues would nevertheless not distract attention away from the essence of the problem." From this part of the debate one should "emphasize" the question that Slavko Buiatovic asked the working group: "Did Mr. Mesic greet them in the Assembly of Croatia the way that he should have done and did they manage to ascertain whether Mesic will be able to psychologically endure the burden of the function of vice president and, later, that of the president of the SFRY Presidency?"

The other point of discord was the inability of the working group to decide on the proposed conclusions, even though the proposed conclusions that had not been agreed upon—"no one" knows how—appeared before the members of the committee. According to the representative of Croatia, it is impossible to reach agreement until the demand is added to the conclusions that Serbs return arms—with the guarantee that they will not have criminal charges filed against them—and that all blockades and barricades be urgently lifted.

As we went to press, it had not even been decided how the committee would work. Some people, like Gojmir Komar, have proposed that everything be postponed until Jovic presents his report to the Federal Chamber today on the political security situation in the whole state. Others, like Petar Skoric, are demanding that the conclusions be adopted immediately "because the people are expecting our conclusions," even though we may work the entire night, as Marija Rodic put it.

Nine Parties To Coordinate Electoral Strategies

LD2810162490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1354 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—Representatives of nine parties today agreed to form a YU-block interparty coordination council for cooperation and to jointly contest the forthcoming elections in four republics and to the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber.

The initiative for setting up a block comprising democratic and Yugoslav-oriented and antinationalist parties was set in motion by the Party of Yugoslavs [Stranka Jugoslavena] leading to last week's meeting attended by 11 parties. Today, in addition to the hosts—the Party of Yugoslavs—representatives of eight parties met: the Yugoslav Socialist Democratic Party [Jugoslavenska Socijalisticka Demokratska Stranka], Democratic Pedagogical Party of Yugoslavia [Demokratska Pedagoska Stranka Jugoslavije], Yugoslav Workers' Party [Radnicka Partija Jugoslavije], Social Democratic Alliance of Yugoslavia (Serbia branch), Republican Party [Republikanska Stranka], the Novi Pazar-based Yugoslav Movement for Progressive Initiative [Jugoslovenska Progresivna Inicijativa], Party of National Accord [Stranka Narodne Sloge] and the Prizren-based Democratic Reformist Alliance of Muslims [Demokratski Reformski Savez Muslimana].

Instead of adopting a proposal for setting up a coalition, which was regarded as "too inflexible," the party representatives agreed to mutual cooperation and to wage their campaigns together and consider joint candidates. This agreement is open to all other democratic and Yugoslav-oriented parties, although if the composition of the participants is anything to go by, this relates primarily to the elections in Serbia.

Invitation Issued to Other Parties

LD2810181690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1550 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—The representatives of nine Yugoslav parties agreed here today to form a coordinating council for cooperation and joint appearance at the forthcoming democratic multi-party elections in four republics and for the federal chamber of the Yugoslav Assembly. Elections have already been held in Slovenia and Croatia.

The initiative to form a bloc of democratic parties was launched by the Party of Yugoslavs.

Today's meeting was also attended by the Yugoslav Social Democratic Party, the Democratic Pedagogical Party of Yugoslavia, the Workers' Party of Yugoslavia, the Social Democratic Alliance of Yugoslavia (the Serbian branch), the Republican Party, the People's Concord Party, the Yugoslav Progressive Initiative of Novi Pazar and the Moslem Democratic Reform Alliance of Prizren.

The parties agreed to nominate joint cadndidates for the coming elections and invited all other Yugoslavia and democracy oriented parties to join them. Judging by the composition of participants in today's meeting, the agreement primarily refers to the elections in Serbia scheduled for December 9.

Mesic Calls Confederation 'Only Possible Solution'

LD2810140590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1244 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Zagreb, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—The real aim of confederate Yugoslavia (urged by two Yugoslav republics—Slovenia and Croatia) is the only possible solution—that each Yugoslav republic becomes sovereign, Vice President of the Yugoslav State Presidency Stjepan Mesic told the Zagreb daily VJESNIK today.

The confederation is a means for reaching this goal and practically the only possible solution, specified Mesic, until recently the prime minister of Croatia.

Mesic said that the other solution on offer—a modern federation—in fact offers a "greater Serbia."

Mesic, however, said that the fact that "we must live together according to each of the solutions" must be borne in mind in the ultimate settlement of Yugoslav problems. Therefore, even in the possibility of breaking into separate states, something in common must be found "because of geo-political reasons, because of the structure of the economy, because of traffic."

Asked whether this was reason enough to remain together, Mesic replied that the breaking up of Yugoslavia so that everyone would have a separate state would represent an anachronism.

Mesic believes that the psychosis of the possible outbreak of a civil war was artificially created. He decidedly rejected such a possibility, since in that case the Yugoslav People's Army would break up, Yugoslavia would vanish and no longer exist either as a federation or as a confederation.

Says Elections Will Determine Future

LD2710101190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2214 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Dubrovnik, 26 Oct (TANJUG)—Democratic processes and the forthcoming multi-party elections in the republics where they have not yet been held are the chief factors which will determine Yugoslavia's future, vice-president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia Stjepan Mesic said today.

Mesic was visiting Dubrovnik, the famous holiday resort of the Yugoslav Adriatic coast, where he held talks with the local leadership on the economic and social reform in Yugoslavia. Mesic particularly insisted on the need for developing a market economy which would take Yugoslavia into Europe and the world.

Stjepan Mesic was elected to the Yugoslav State Presidency, the highest state leadership, last Friday as the representative from Croatia, one of the two Yugoslav republics (the other is Slovenia) which have held their first post-war multi-party elections. The other republics—Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia—are to hold similar elections by the end of the current year.

Croatian Decree Prohibits Sale of Enterprises

LD2710232590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1251 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Zagreb, 27 Oct (TANJUG)—The government of Croatia has just imposed a moratorium on the sale of all socially owned enterprises or capital in the Republic. This is the basis of a new decree "On the protection of the interests of the Republic of Croatia in the procedure for transforming social ownership into other forms of ownership," adopted in the closed session of a meeting of the Croatian Government on 24 October and published in NARODNE NOVINE of the same date, which today reached readers who subscribe.

The new decree, which came into force immediately, will be valid pending the adoption of a new republican law which will determine the regulations for the transformation of social ownership into private and other forms of ownership. [passage omitted]

Aspirations of Croatian Communist's Outlined

LD2810101790 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2211 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Split, 27 Oct (TANJUG)—The reformed communist in favor of a democratic and free republic within Yugoslavia and a new historic agreement between democratically elected representatives of all nations in Yugoslavia, Ivica Racan, president of the League of Communists of Croatia - Party of Democratic Changes (LCH-PDC) [SKH-SDP] said in Split today.

Racan was speaking at a mass anti-fascist rally to mark the 46th anniversary of the liberation of the biggest town on Yugoslavia's Adriatic Sea coast.

Faced by numerous images of the creator of post-war Yugoslavia, the late Marshal Josib Broz Tito, and banners inscribed "To Join Europe We Must Stand United," Racan spoke out against any suppression of democracy in the name of national unity, and in favour of a Yugoslav orientation, which, he said, is needed by Croatia and is in its interest. He also said regional specificities must be respected.

Racan announced at the rally, which was initially banned by the Croatian Interior Minister but later permitted following vehement protests by communists and members of other left-wing parties, that the LCH-PDC would hold a congress in seven days' time.

The ruling League of Communists held today in Titograd, capital of the country's smallest republic Montenegro, the first in a series of twenty gatherings ahead of the elections, which are set for December 9.

Party president Momir Bulatovic reiterated the organization's commitment to a Yugoslavia as a federative state of sovereign citizens and equal nations and nationalities.

Serb Party Official on Future of Serbs in Croatia

LD2810100590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2146 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Knin, Northern Dalmatia, 27 Oct (TANJUG)—"In the event of the dismembering of Yugoslavia, the Serbs in Croatia will seek to form a new, Krajina (border-land) state."

"This will not be another Serbia but a modern state with a guaranteed sovereignty of citizens," president of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDP), Academician Dr Jovan Raskovic, has said.

Braskovic said in a telephone interview with the local [words indistinct] (?radio) station in Knin [words indistinct] a town on the border between northern Dalmatia and southern Lika Province, that he had the impression that the situation of the Serbs in Croatia (the republic's second largest ethnic group) had been aggravated.

The newly strengthened right wing of the Croatian Republic Union (CDU), the ruling party in the republic, is pursuing an arrogant policy towards the Serbian people, Raskovic said.

Meanwhile, railway traffic between central Croatia and its littoral, which had been broken off for a month, has been normalized.

The region in which Knin is the main traffic hub is the focus of the Serbian population's dissatisfaction with the policies of the new Croatian authorities, the victors at this spring's first post-war multi-party elections in Yugoslavia's second-largest republic.

Croat Media Reports Rumors of Assassination Plans

AU2810204490 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Oct 90 p 4

[TANJUG report: "Announcement of Assassination"]

[Text] In their evening newscasts Croatian Radio and Croatian Television simultaneously broadcast "a piece of information which came from the official organs of one of the neighboring friendly countries and which the Croatian News Agency HINA was authorized to use."

According to this information, six assassins, of whom only two are Yugoslav citizens, are to assassinate the two most prominent leaders of the rebellion in Knin over the course of next few days. According to the aforementioned foreign source, as the Croatian media report, this would "most probably be an internal showdown among the rebels, or a provocation aimed at starting an avalanche of internal showdowns and a civil war in Croatia."

Reading this piece of information, the news reader on Croatian Television observed that this information lacked many elements.

Croatian People's Party Officially Registered

LD2610145990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1259 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Summary] Zagreb, 26 Oct (TANJUG)—The Croatian Ministry for Justice and Administration today registered the Croatian People's Party [Hrvatska Narodna Stranka—HNS]. The recently held HNS assembly elected Savka Dabcevic-Kucar as party chairman.

Slovenia, Croatia Issue Statement on Army's Role

LD2710093490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1845 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 26 Oct (TANJUG)—The fact that the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) still appears as a political factor which independently assesses common events in the republics, and in the process applies dual criteria in the adoption of stances on individual phenomena, is not in keeping with the general guidelines of democratic development. This is stressed in a joint letter from the governments of the republics of Slovenia and Croatia sent to Ante Markovic, president of the Federal Executive Council.

The content of the letter was presented to journalists at today's press conference in the Executive Council of Slovenia.

The letter explains that the JNA is in factual terms setting itself above the political and state organs and above the interests of individual republics. It is assessed that the process of depoliticization in the JNA is too slow, and has been halted. We are witnesses in the world and in history to a unique example, it adds, when some political party, in our case the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, continues to exist only in the armed forces as a ruling party.

Both republican governments consider that all military questions should be resolved at the same time as other political and other social questions. The letter adds that the JNA is still declared to be, and recognized as, our common armed forces which should not threaten the processes of democratization anywhere in Yugoslavia.

In keeping with the joint assessment, the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and the government of the Republic of Croatia propose in the letter that the FEC [Federal Executive Council], in agreement with the SFRY Presidency, first of all organize political, and then specialist talks on possible different ways of resolving the military question and operations.

There should also be talks about the models put forward (federation or confederation) for emergence from the current political crisis, the letter says, and it takes the

view that there are no questions on which an agreement would not be possible and proposes that no final decision be dopted until the elections have taken place in all the Yugoslav republics. Talks and an agreement are needed, so that in the first instance individual problems in this area in the transitional period are not needlessly exacerbated, and also because of the need to set out clearly the possible different solutions as soon as possible.

These assessments, the letter says, have been adopted on the basis of a joint analysis of events to this point which leads to the possible development of events. Both governments also take the view that the field of national defense, and also a large part of the military questions and the question of the security of citizens of the two republics, are problems which demand the special attention of all those responsible.

Slovene League of Communists Holds Congress

LD2810051190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1442 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Nova Gorica, 27 Oct (TANJUG)—In his introductory address at the Slovene League of Communists [LC]-Party of Democratic Reform Congress in Nova Gorica held under the motto "For Genuine Social Democracy," its President Ciril Ribicic said that there is no doubt that the Slovene LC-Slovene Communist Party has not always been up with the times, particularly in the wake of the war and in the early seventies. Therefore the reformists regret and condemn all forms of revolutionary violence in the name of some utopian communist project, all cases of physical and spiritual oppression, the postwar murders, the rigged trials, the cadre purges, and curbing the freedom of the press, speech, and political association.

Nonetheless we will not let anyone, Ribicic stressed, manipulate critical revaluations of history, something that is not our possession, in order to redesign history. We oppose equalizing the liberation struggle with civil war or with the despicable treason of our own people.

In the days following the elections, Ribicic said, the party was experiencing one of the gravest crises in its entire history. The dwindling number of its membership was "helped" by, among other things, retaliatory threats and the first cases of political discrimination stemming from political allegiances. This was further highlighted by an unhealthy political atmosphere created by the new ruling coalition and its attempts to bring the economy, public services, and the media under its etatist control and by hastily pulling down the bridges of economic, political, and other cooperation in Yugoslavia. Demos, which declared itself as Slovenia's social opposition, has turned into the right-wing power of Slovenia, Ribicic said. [passage omitted]

Milan Kucan, president of the Republic of Slovenia Presidency, wished the congress success and said he hoped that the congress resulted in a political platform which would say clearly that Slovenia also needs to have, among its other major political platforms, a clear program of social democracy—a program of left-wing socialist and democratic options.

Kucan stressed that such a program would introduce balance into the Slovene political stage. We have not yet reached the end of the path our party chose a few years ago nor have we achieved our goals. This is a time of alliances and liaisons rather than of divisions. In a time of searching and creation there is no time to look for and create enemies. It is a time to look for friends in Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and the world.

Let us not contemplate erecting borders on Kupa and Sutla [Slovene-Croatian border]. Let us rather contemplate how to transcend the borders with Italy, Austria, and Hungary. In this way we will be understood and accepted, wherever we want to go, as an equal, creative, democratic, and free nation which is capable of living in a Europe of equal nations and countries, Kucan said. [passage omitted]

After the debate this afternoon delegates of the Slovene LC-Party of Democratic Reform adopted a "political declaration" in which they advocate the sovereignty, independence, and autonomy of Slovenia. This party is for Slovenia as a rule-of-law state, parliamentary democracy, and a multiparty system. [passage omitted]

Delegates to the Slovene LC-Party of Democratic Reform Congress have in the second round of voting decided that as of today their party will be called Party of Democratic Reform [Stranka Demokratske Prenove—in Slovene]. The delegates voted on three proposals for the party's new name: Party of Democratic Reform [Stranka Demokratske Prenove], Party of the Democratic Left of Slovenia [Stranka Demokratske Levice Slovenije] and the Social-Democratic Reform of Slovenia [Socijaldemokratska Prenova Slovenije].

Dr. Ciril Ribicic was elected chairman of the party. Sonja Lokar, Milan Balazic, Peter Bekes, and Franci Krizancic were elected its vice chairmen. Franci Pivec was elected its secretary.

This evening the delegates adopted congress documents among which is a declaration on ecological policy, a resolution on the new Republic of Slovenia constitution, and stances of the congress on current issues.

Changes Proposed to Serbian Election Laws

AU2610214990 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Even though the law on elections in Serbia has been adopted, on 23 October 10 delegates submitted to the Republican Assembly a proposed law on changing and amending the law on the election of peoples deputies. Here is Dragan Nikolic with the details:

[Begin Nikolic recording] Apart from citing the contentious articles, the explanation of this initiative stresses that it is essential to create conditions for a compromise,

ensure that the election contest is carried out unhindered, and stop conflicts on the political stage over election regulations.

The legal procedure will have to be carried out quickly since the elections have been scheduled for 9 December. The statement goes on to say that by accepting this solution, no single party will win or lose. Only Serbia will win.

As we have learned, the proposal has been endorsed and enters the Assembly procedure.

Fifteen opposition parties held a news conference today on this and welcomed this initiative by a group of delegates. They think that this is the final hour for the interests of Serbia to be placed above particularist political interests.

The statement that was distributed to journalists on this occasion says:

The interests of the Serbian people require that everything be done so that Serbia enters 1991 with legitimate and democratically elected authorities. The adoption of the changes would guarantee that the elections would be controlled by several parties, and therefore we fully support the proposals. It is essential that specific political dialogue is conducted on our other demands.

If this minimum of conditions is not fulfilled by 12 November 1990, the undersigned parties of the Serbian opposition call on all citizens of Serbia to boycott the elections.

This is followed by the signatures of representatives of the Serbian Renewal Movement [Srpski Pokret Obnove], New Democracy [Nova Demokratija], the Serbian [word indistinct] Party, the Democratic Party of Freedom [Demokratska Stranka Slobode], the Republican Party [Republikanska Stranka], the Davidovic-Grol Democratic Party, the Workers Party of Yugoslavia [Radnicka Partija Jugoslavije], the Democratic Party [Demokratska Partija], Democratic Forum [Demokratski Forum], the People's Party [Narodna Stranka], the old Radical Party [Radikalna Stranka], the Serbian Renewal Movement, the People's Radical Party [Narodna Radikalna Stranka], and the Movement for the Protection of Human Rights [Pokret za Zastitu Ljudskih Prava]. [end recording]

Serbia Heralds Instigation of Protective Measures

AU2710204190 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 21 Oct 90 p 10

[Rodoljub Geric article: "Because of the Economic Egoism of the Northwestern Republics and Harmful Measures of the Federal Government: Serbia Is Turning the Page"]

[Text] Out of naivete or because of an excessively strong desire to realize the ancient dream of a joint state in the Balkans, even when the dream turned into a nightmare, the people of Serbia (and of course its leaders, as well) allowed factories to be dismantled and transported elsewhere, did not complain even when territories were taken away from them and other states were set up there, and did not complain even when their mineral wealth dug out with great effort was sold for little money, and manufactured goods from assembling plants were obtained in return at extremely high prices. It did not appear strange to them that in the west of our country, Catholic churches establish colleges for children, while here children say magic words when they see an Orthodox priest so as to ward off evil, among many other things.

This was once upon a time, and may those times never return; but in fact they never ceased. When the hegemonists and centralists, the Bolsheviks and antidemocrats, and Byzantines to boot, had shaken off their dreams to some extent, it became clear that one cannot carry on in the old way, and that new methods should therefore be invented. The ideal solution was found in the confederation, a kind of a customs union in which the goods of the developed republics would circulate freely, and these republics would not have to give anything in return: nothing for agriculture, nothing for the underdeveloped regions, nothing for the financing of other common functions. Thus everything would remain like in the good old times.

The Slovenes Are Already in a Confederation

However, even before this proposal has been discussed, it should be said that above all Slovenia has already entered a confederation with the rest of Yugoslavia (and Croatia is following in its footsteps). Amendment 96 to the Constitution of Slovenia abolished in that republic the provisions of the federal Constitution which "are not in harmony with the Slovene Constitution," and a constitutional law subsequently defined which federal laws should disappear from the Slovene scene.

It is therefore quite logical that under such circumstances, Serbia is forced to defend its economic integrity, if of course it wants to avoid falling into colonial dependency again. Serbia, however, is now in a situation when it must also try to correct the grave consequences that federal government measures have inflicted on its economy. Great harm has been done, because this reform again, like all the preceding reforms, was created in conformity with Serbia's immeasurable love for Yugoslavia, because of which Serbia has always been prepared to shoulder the greatest burden for the sake of a brighter future.

Thus the freezing of some, but not all, prices has led precisely to Serbia's products being primarily put on ice, and if not, their prices were slashed through senseless imports. This could of course be corrected through taxes, but as is well known, our northwestern republics have not allowed it. The less developed regions could also have been helped from the federal fund, but these same republics stopped sending money to this fund, just as

they did to the federal budget in general. Thus Serbia has remained without several billion dinars from the federal treasury to which it was entitled.

Provisional Measures are Necessary

There is much data on the damage that Serbia suffers because of the moves by Slovenia and Croatia on the one hand, and the federal government on the other. For instance, because of the disharmony in the price of electricity, the electricity generation industry of Serbia has earned precisely $1,861,800,000 less than it should have. This year alone, $789 million "evaporated" in this way, out of which sum 15 percent or $118 million was virtually a free gift to other republics.

A particularly sad story could be told about agriculture which in the West is the foundation of economic stability, but has been destroyed here to its very foundations by the "measures" over many years. How could this not be so when, for instance, the protection prices of wheat, corn, sunflowers, soybeans, and sugar beets set by the Federal Executive Council this year were increased only half as much as retail prices increased between last year and this year. The federal government took care to see that this was not the only trouble, and allowed the regions that do not grow wheat to import farm produce. In this way it brought the domestic producers, who are mostly concentrated in Serbia, to the position that they worry about enormous stocks, interest payments, and similar misfortunes.

If we add to all this the basic disagreement between the government of Serbia—which believes that the only way out of the crisis is through development—and the policy of the federal government, which leads in the opposite direction, it is not difficult to draw a conclusion about what is at stake here.

It is quite obvious, however, that all this nothwithstanding, Serbia does not think at all of going back on its proposal for a federal system in the country, which should indeed be more just than previously. This is certainly a political problem for this republic, considering that many Serbs live outside the republic's borders, but it is also an economic problem, considering that only the malicious are not clear in their minds about how much a confederalization of the state would cost.

Therefore the announced measures by the Republican Executive Council of Serbia should be comprehended above all as defensive, as well as temporary, measures to apply until the moment when the decision on the future of the Yugoslav community is made. However, if Slovenia and Croatia maintain their unchanged view that the federal state should be dismantled, it is certain that these Serbian measures, and certainly some others in addition, will completely lose their temporary nature. A confederation in which some people count money and others try to make the federation work is not a development acceptable to Serbia.

Preelection Activities of Serbian Parties Noted

LD2810101290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2152 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Oct (TANJUG)—An organization named the pan-Serbian Movement was founded today in Novi Sad, capital of the province of Vojvodina.

One of the movement's principal objectives is the unification of the republics of Serbia and Montenegro and an effecient settlement of the conflict between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo.

The political organization, set up only a month and a half before the first multi-party elections in Serbia, is also demanding that the Karadjordjevic dynasty be allowed to come back to the country and that all their property and citizenships be returned.

Meanwhile, divisions have taken place in a number of the "established" parties.

A meeting of representatives of 56 local committees of the Radical Party, held in the town of Krusevac (Central Serbia), decided that party leader Veljko Guberina (a lawyer) and several other top party officials would be suspended for what was called a rapid loss in the party's authority.

Guberina was charged with "collaborating with the ruling party and betraying the Serbian people."

The Greens, who started their convention today with music, poetry and in the presence of an ordinary household cat, criticized their leaders for using the split in the party and turning away sympathizers by emphasizing political rather than ecological issues in their activities.

The Greens have not yet said whether they will boycott the elections.

It was decided today at a congress of the Workers' Party of Yugoslavia that the party will take part in the forthcoming elections in Serbia.

The main objective of the party, which today elected trade union journalist Milosav Jovavic as its leader, is a "political struggle against any government which works against the interest of labour." The party is in favour of a democratic Yugoslavia rather than an ethnic wasp's nest.

The federal and republican authorities were blamed for economic mismanagement and the all-round crisis.

Serbian Renewal Movement Begins Convention

LD2910062990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2131 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—We do not wish to break up Yugoslavia. We want the future federal state to be a multiparty, parliamentary and democratic republic or monarchy with a strong central government, provided

the autonomous provinces are established wherever reasons similar to those in Serbia so require - leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SRM) [SPO] Vuk Draskovic told the opening session of its two-day convention here on Sunday.

Addressing the meeting attended by about 4,000 delegates of this largest opposition party in Serbia and guests from Yugoslavia and abroad, Draskovic said that the SRM was not opposed to a confederal treaty or even to the secession of individual Yugoslav republics, provided, as he put it, "that the historical, ethnic and war rights of the Republic of Serbia are observed."

Asked about Serbia's democratic multiparty elections scheduled for December 9, Draskovic said that the movement had virtually won them. That, he said, "can only be disproved by rigging the elections."

Draskovic announced that the SRM would boycott the elections and invited the other opposition parties in Serbia to do likewise, if the electoral law was not changed by the republican assembly and the opposition was not enabled to participate in supervising the elections. He promised there would be no revanchism towards Communists if his party wins the elections.

Draskovic also spoke of Serbia's Kosovo Province, inhabited by the majority ethnic Albanian population in addition to Serbs, Montenegrins, Romanies, Turks and others. Alanian separatists want this province troubled with ethnic conflicts to be declared a republic.

"All Shqiptars (Abanians) who accept Kosovo as an eternal possession of the Serbian people, and Serbia as their fatherland, will be recognized all rights as a national minority. The others, however, will have to leave Serbia," declared Draskovic.

The World Assembly of the Serbian Renewal Movement - the name under which the convention was held - adopted a new statute of the SRM and a declaration of national reconciliation.

Serbian TU To Propose Candidates for Assembly

LD2610133190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1147 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 26 Oct (TANJUG)—In order to protect interests of its members, the Serbian Trade Union will put forward candidates in the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Serbia. This has been announced by the president of the Serbian Trade Union Congress, Tomislav Milenkovic, at a press conference today.

Having representatives in the parliament is not contrary to trade union orientations, especially since the trade union counts on winning only 15 to 20 parliamentary seats, it has been stated today. The trade union is, however, interested in holding junior ministerial posts dealing with issues of social and material security of the employees.

By supporting certain party programs and candidates, the trade union hopes to wield influence in the political life of the republic. For how long it will continue to be a nonparty organization, remains to be seen, although it will be on to promote such an orientation, Milenkovic said. [passage omitted]

Civilian Appointed Head of Military Concern

AU2610205790 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 19 Oct 90 p 6

["D.T."-signed report: "A Civilian at the Head of 'Krusik'"]

[Text] Valjevo—The mechanical engineer, Milan Andjelkovic, from Belgrade, has been chosen as the director of the "Krusik" holding corporation, which employs 10,000 workers. His program for development and overcoming "Krusik's" present difficulties was the most attractive, so Andjelkovic's appointment solves the problem of who should be the head of the factory, which, since last December and the "removal of the Serbian directors" has been managed by an acting director. It is interesting that Andjelkovic is the first "civilian" at the head of "Krusik" because, due to the large amount of special purpose production done there, the unwritten rule has been that the factory's director be a member of the military.

'Drastic' Fall in Kosovo Production Reported

AU2610221390 Skopje FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 19 Oct 90 p 4

[Emin Azemi and Blerim Reka report: "Reflections of Albanian Endurance in the World"]

[Excerpts] Pristina, 19 Oct—The situation in Kosovo in recent days is not full of "fresh events," apart from the continuing situation in the economy, which might be called unenviable. In the last two days, the Kosovars "forgot" about themselves for a few moments, watching the most recent collapse of Yugoslav options on their television screens. At such moments, they have every reason to be worried, all the more so because there is very little mention of the participation of the Albanians in the future federal or confederate regulation of Yugoslavia. In the SFRY Presidency's most recent proposal of a federal model, Kosovo and the Albanians are even excluded from the framework of the future Yugoslav federation.

A news item concerning Kosovo caught television viewers' attention yesterday evening: the proposal of the Serbian Assembly's Executive Council that the Republican Information Secretariat consider the possibility of preparing for the publication of RILINDJA.

As for the production sector, it can be said that Kosovar industry produced 25.4 percent less in the first nine months of this year compared with the same period last year. Such discouraging figures show that in this September alone, the physical volume of Kosovo production

was 50.9 percent lower than in September last year. A worrying phenomenon in the Kosovo economy is that temporary measures are not being enforced only in certain collectives, but everywhere. This, of course, is leading to a rapid fall in production.

Below, we will provide some examples which show the alarming situation in the coal industry, which is well known to account for a large proportion (19.1 percent) of the physical volume of Kosovo's industrial output. In the January-September period this year, production was 16.7 percent lower than in the same period last year. The nonferrous metal industry, which accounts for 10.4 percent of output, provides a further example. In the last nine months, production was 27.3 percent lower than in the same period last year.

The mass dismissals of Albanian workers from their jobs are considered one of the reasons for the fall in production in these two sectors. A total of 2,536 workers have been dismissed from the two main Trepca mines at Stari Trg, and 2,355 from Kisnica and Novobrdo. The absurd situation at these Kosovo mines belies the pompous statements of the imposed management, according to whom production has significantly increased without the Albanian workers.

There has also been a drastic fall in production in the ferrous metal industry. This branch of industry has been outstanding for years for its profitable production and positive business results. However, the morbid "injections" given to it by the Serbian Assembly have led to a fall in industrial production in this branch of 57.2 percent compared with last year. The introduction of enforced measures in the Urosevac tube factory and the dismissal of 950 Albanian workers from this Kosovo industrial giant have led to such highly depressing figures. The rubber industry has suffered the same fate, with 36.8 percent lower production. In September alone, in comparison with the same month last year, the production index was 59.6 percent lower. This collapse of production was especially evident in the Balkan Combine at Suva Reka. [passage omitted]

Another Kosovo Victim in the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA]

A Croat has been added to the list of dead Albanian soldiers in the JNA. The soldier Ivica Berisic from Janjevo died when he was kicked in the throat by a guard at the JNA barracks in Kicevo, 15 days before he was due to complete his military service.

According to the verbal statement given by officers to the deceased soldier's parents, the official version of this soldier's death is as follows: On Saturday the 23d of this month [date as published], Ivica went into town and returned to the barracks around 1900. The guard stopped him at the entrance and asked him to open a plastic bag, which he said contained chocolate. Meanwhile, the officer in charge of guard duty returned from dinner, and caused Ivica's death. In a fight between them, Ivica was kicked in the throat and was in the throes of death until 1400 the next day, when he died in Skopje Military Hospital.

This explanation of the soldier's death left Janjevo dumbfounded, and was interpreted in different ways. The confusion grew when Ivica Berisic's mother Ljuba went to the barracks in search of her son, and an ill-informed sentry asked her, "Are you looking for the soldier who was attacked by the guard...?"

Archbishop Franjo Djuric spoke at the funeral of the soldier Ivica Berisic, saying that "God alone knows how our soldier Ivica lost his life." He also said that this is a warning for all those responsible for the younger generation. The soldier's body, in contrast to those of the Albanian soldiers, was in an open coffin. [passage omitted]

Montenegrin Communists: 'Only the Name Remains'

AU2610113190 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 22 October pp 1, 3

[Slavko Vukasinovic and Ljubomir Mudresa report: "Only the Name Remains"]

[Excerpt] Titograd—In contrast to previous congresses (excluding, of course, the 10th extraordinary one), the 11th Congress of the League of Communists [LC] of Montenegro represented a real working agreement. Prepared without pomp and opening with the anthem "Hey Slavs" and without any symbols of great iconography, only its name will remain the same, to judge by everything. As said at the meeting of Montenegrin Communists, everything else is new and stems from the views that the members expressed in the public debate, that is to say, from the "heads of the whole people": the statute, the declaration of aims and principles, and the electoral program under the slogan, "We know how!"

How, was something that 39 delegates of the total 145, representing around 68,000 members of this organization (250 of them participated in the work of this congress with the members of the leaderships), tried to demonstrate. Otherwise, this was only the first part of this working meeting and the second part will be held following the elections, most likely within six months when cadre changes will also be made.

The essence of previous efforts from which the Montenegrin Communists are drawing experience for further activity was explained by Momir Bulatovic, president of the Central Committee of the LC of Montenegro.

After he had stressed that, as a response to the incipient changes, the LC of Montenegro had formulated at its previous congress a new policy and different attitude toward reality under the heading of "New Developmental Philosophy" and then only perceived the basic directions and surmised the dynamics of the social trends which it was facing and that not even today had

the LC overcome such an approach and that it is perhaps even more topical than when it became the main program orientation, Momir Bulatovic recalled that the political environment and particularly the actual breakup of the Yugoslav LC at the 14th Extraordinary Congress and the entire development of political events, first in Kosovo, then in Slovenia, and finally in Croatia and in almost all republics without exception, had constantly raised new dilemmas and provoked strong emotions and growing concerns.

The large number of political entities in the political arena of Montenegro is multiplying, Bulatovic stressed. He recalled that all the political organizations and movements which were in existence at the time attended the 10th Extraordinary Congress as guests, which was in fact the core of the future organization of parties. We were thus demonstrating that we were not bothered then, let alone now, by the realization of the freedom to express a political preference and organize politically.

We have a clearly critical stand toward the majority of parties, but we have endeavored, and I believe succeeded, to not be the initiators of, and active participants in, the general political quarrel which is hovering dangerously over Montenegro. We have endured and continue to endure many critical comments which some parties have been heaping on us by the day, thus no doubt justifying most of the point of their existence. The benevolence that we have been demonstrating should not be interpreted as a sign of our weakness but, on the contrary, as an indicator that we have successfully surmounted the childhood disease of party organization. The growing line of reproaches, because it is certainly not known what side the will of the electorate will come down on, has led to paralysis in numerous vital services. I believe that never has more been said about politics and less about professional duties, work, and creativity than in the last few months in Montenegro. This dangerously imperils basic rights, security, and the protection of a number of citizens, which even today has produced a considerable amount of hostility toward the political freedoms that have been won or, to be more precise, toward the way in which they are used and promoted, Bulatovic claimed.

The essence of the programmatic aims of the LC of Montenegro is a society of civil rights, economic efficiency, social justice, and legal security and equality: a society in which individual civil rights represent the foundation and source of collective rights. We are committed to democratic socialism, to a society in which right prevails and in which the rights and freedoms of any citizen can be restricted only by the equal rights and freedoms of other people. We are in favor of a state in which no one can be above the law, Bulatovic said. [passage omitted]

Vojvodina Socialists Fail To Elect President

AU2710220090 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Oct 90 pp 1, 3

[S. Stanojevic, Z. Serences and B. Gulan report: "The President Remains Unsuccessful"]

[Excerpt] Novi Sad—The first conference of the provincial organization of the Socialist Party of Serbia for Vojvodina was held on Saturday [20 October], when the League of Communists of Vojvodina and the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Vojvodina merged into one party. About 50 of the total 480 delegates and 215 guests present participated in the 15-hour debate. The conference was covered by 138 journalists from 38 Yugoslav editorial offices. Special greetings were extended to the delegates by Dr. Bogdan Trifunovic, vice president of the Main Committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia, and Predrag Jereminov, secretary of the Committee for Preparing the Congress of Renewal of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

"Cadre issues" dominated the conference to a great extent. At the request of delegates from the communes, the candidate list for the election of 85 members of the first Provincial Committee was increased from 109 to 120 candidates. However, after the election of the Provincial Committee, its first founding session was not held, so the conference ended without the election of the president and vice president of the Provincial Committee.

The conference "recommended" to the committee that out of the two candidates—Radovan Pankov and Nedeljko Sipovac—the president should be the one who receives the most votes in a secret ballot and the other one should be the vice president. On this "presidential list," Nedeljko Sipovac received 255 votes and Radovan Pankov 248. However, since in the elections for committee members, Pankov received more votes than Sipovac, the question was raised in a vociferous polemical discussion of how the delegates could vote so differently for the same two candidates on the two occasions. The dispute was somehow quieted down after a stormy debate but the president of the Provincial Committee was not elected because the founding session was not held.

The founding session will be held later in the week. Moreover, only after "prior consultations with the leadership of the Socialist Party of Serbia" will the 15 members of the committee's Executive Council be elected.

The conference confirmed three well-known popular sayings: "One knows what the day will be like in the morning"; "Every action comes to light"; "The evening crowns the day."

The first one was confirmed because for the first time on the eve of such a large meeting, the announced news conference was not held as it was not known until the very last minute who would read the report or who the

candidates for the most senior posts would be. Earlier divisions in the Vojvodina leadership (between a group led by Nedeljko Sipovac and one headed by Radovan Pankov and Mihajl Kertes) were so apparent up until the beginning of the conference itself that the leadership of the main committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia was, it appears, trying until the last minute to "persuade" both currents to find a compromise so that the conference could be as dignified as possible.

The second saying was confirmed by the fact that the "two options of one policy," as this dispute has recently been called, were so strong that it was obviously "recommended" by the leadership of the Socialist Party of Serbia that the "belligerent leaders" and the previous heads of the League of Communists of Vojvodina and the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Vojvodina should not participate in the debate at all "for the sake of peace in the home." Thus, it happened that for the first time the leading personalities associated with a policy—Sipovac, Pankov, Kertes, and others—did not appear at all on the conference rostrum. Moreover, to prevent political passions coming to the fore, it was decided at the conference itself that the Executive Council of 15 members would not be elected at the first session of the Provincial Committee but later, "after consultations had been carried out."

The third wise saying was completely confirmed at the very end of the conference around midnight when the results of the voting for the committee were announced and the results for the posts of its president and vice president. Virtually all holders of important political posts in Vojvodina entered the Provincial Committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia but sparks nevertheless flew over who would be the president and who would be the vice president of the committee. To prevent direct "clashes" over the distribution of the main armchairs, it was affirmed that the conference would decide on the two candidates, Radovan Pankov and Nedeljko Sipovac, in a secret ballot and the one who received the most votes would be "recommended" to the Provincial Committee of Communists as its president and the other as its vice president. [passage omitted]

Macedonian Movement Plans To Contest Elections

LD2710090390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1305 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Skopje, 26 Oct (TANJUG)—Macedonia, which will hold its first free multiparty elections on 11 November, needs a government and parliament of national salvation, the more so since no party in the republic is presently prepared to shoulder this historic burden alone. This stand on the eve of elections in the republic was announced to journalists today by the leadership of the Movement for All-Macedonian Action [Pokret za Svemakedonsku Akciju—MAAK].

MAAK advocates a free, independent, and sovereign state of Macedonia, which will be an important factor in reaching agreement on a different Yugoslavia. The political part of its program, it was said, details the idea that Macedonia has historical reasons for becoming a proponent of demilitarization of the Balkans and of a confederal agreement among countries in this peninsula.

It was announced to the journalists today that MAAK will contest the elections independently and that this movement will hold its founding congress on 4 November.

Foca Executive Council's Authority Reinstated

LD2610225590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1609 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Foca, 26 Oct (TANJUG)—According to the assessment of the Executive Council of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the political-security situation in Foca, disrupted during the summer by nationality conflicts and divisions, has now returned to normal. As a result, the suspension of the municipal Assembly's Excutive Council has been annulled and the administration of the commune has been handed over again, starting today, to the local organs of authority.

During a session of all chambers of the Foca municipal Assembly it was determined, however, that the political-security situation in this region is still complex. The causes of this situation should be overcome by more effective action by the rule-of-law state and by the joint activity of all citizens. It was also noted that the situation in the Focatrans Enterprise—one of the main culprits of the disputes in Foca—has still not returned to normal. For almost five months about 100 workers of Serbian nationality have refused to work in the firm as long as it is managed by director Murid Djuliman. Allegations that he is abusing his position, however, have not been proved so far by the competent organs, and most employees support him.